

Submitter: Mary Anne McMurren
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5526

Support for Critical Food Assistance

Date: March 13, 2025

Name: Mary Anne McMurren

Organization (if applicable): Saint Mary's Episcopal Church and Food for Lane County

Location: Eugene, Oregon

Co-Chair Campos, Co-Chair Valderamma, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Saint Mary's Episcopal Church and Food for Lane County, we strongly support increased funding through the Oregon Hunger Response Fund to provide critical food assistance throughout the state. In local communities, we provide food security that serves as a lifeline to thousands of families and individuals facing food insecurity.

I serve as a volunteer making food every Saturday morning at Saint Mary's Episcopal Church, along with about 25 volunteers each week. I am asking for support through this house bill to support and provide food for one of our most vulnerable populations. At Saint Mary's with help from Food for Lane County we provide about 275 hot breakfasts each week to the unsheltered. We also provide 700 sandwiches each week. We deliver the sandwiches in cooperation with other organizations and churches to sites with temporary housing and medical and mental health services. During covid we saw an increase in need and the cost of buying food to prepare has increased. We rely on generous donations from Food for Lane County, people in our church and other generous private citizens. The needs have increased significantly over the past 5 years. We need further support from this grant. I urge you to help us to provide support for relief and self-sufficiency for the people suffering without food.

With many of our neighbors one paycheck away from crisis, and food banks are often the only place they can turn to for help. Food insecurity impacts Oregonians of all ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds, and it is a direct barrier to health, education, and productivity. The funding requested today will directly support food distribution, operational costs, and programs that target specific needs within our communities.

I am grateful to live in the State of Oregon where we are doing our best to create a better economy that will not leave people having to depend on charity as a means to

survive indefinitely.

I urge the Committee and the Legislature to vote for this bill to provide a better future for all of Oregon's residents and will help the most needy in our State.

Sincerely,
Mary Anne McMurren
maryanne.mcmurren@gmail.com
541-232-8027