

Submitter: Jessie Chaney

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

My name is Jessie and I live in SW Portland. I have been an early elementary teacher for 20 years and help to cook hot meals for the community at a community based soup kitchen. I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 611, Food For All Oregonians which would ensure Youth and Elderly Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy. In order for kids to learn they need their basic needs met. Food is a basic need. Children who are hungry and under nourished struggle in the classroom. This struggle has direct and indirect effects in the classroom. When a young child is struggling from hunger it affects their attention, their behavior and retention of information. Food for All Oregonians (SB 611) will allow low-income Youth and Elder Oregonians to access the grocery benefits they need to thrive. These are Youth and Elders who are currently excluded from SNAP solely due to immigration status. Food for All will build on successful, community-driven navigator models to ensure trust and community safety. This is why I am urging your YES vote on SB 611. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Jessie Chaney Portland, Oregon