

Submitter: Amy Herzfeld-Copple
On Behalf Of: Western States Center
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee, My name is Amy Herzfeld-Copple and I serve as Executive Director of Western States Center (WSC). WSC is a 38 year-old nonprofit based in Portland that works to strengthen inclusive democracy across the Pacific Northwest. Western States Center is in strong support of Senate Bill 611, Food For All Oregonians, which would ensure that youth and elderly Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep themselves and their families healthy. We believe that food security is a human right and inseparable from other critical areas of community wholeness like housing stability, education access, and health equity. No family in Oregon should have to choose between paying their bills or putting food on the table. What's more, access to food should not depend on where we were born. Food for All Oregonians (SB 611) will allow low-income youth and elder Oregonians to access the grocery benefits they need to thrive. Five states, including Washington and California, already have state programs that improve SNAP eligibility for immigrants and refugees. Food for All is modeled after these programs and built with the expertise of Oregonians with lived experiences of hunger and our immigration system. Please vote YES on SB 611 to help ensure that immigration status no longer drives hunger and poverty in our communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.