

Submitter: Casey Lay

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

Hello, I am a fourth generation Oregonian. My mother struggled to make ends meet with twin daughters on a single income. Unfortunately she did not receive state assistance during this time due to lack of knowledge and pride which led to her filing for bankruptcy because of the high cost of childcare and a single income that could not keep up. This bankruptcy followed her for the next ten years until she was finally able to crawl out of financial despair and purchase our first home. Poverty remains a root cause of hunger, and the rising costs of everyday essentials — like housing, groceries, utilities, and childcare— are forcing families to make impossible choices. No one should have to choose between childcare, food, and rent. These kinds of rising costs disproportionately affect certain communities such as Black, Indigenous and all People of Color, immigrants and refugees, trans and gender-nonconforming individuals, and single mothers and caregivers. These communities are two to three times more likely to face hunger and poverty in our region which is why is it so important to push forward policy to support our communities no matter where they were born. Food is a human right and no one deserves to go hungry.