

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB611

Food is critical for our well being and is a huge need in our communities. Due to structural racism and a lack of opportunity in the communities that need it most, food insecurity is linked to high levels of toxic stress, and it limits the capacity vulnerable communities of color have to meet their basic needs. Hungry adults and children have higher rates of mental health issues like depression and post-traumatic stress syndrome and are at higher risk of having chronic diseases. Food is a human right and many Oregonians go hungry or worry about where the next meal will come from due to eligibility, stigma, and misinformation associated with that eligibility, now more than ever. We must take bold steps now to address hunger in Oregon NOW. This bill will allow kids to do better in school; our families' health and well-being will improve, and our economy will thrive when our communities are healthy and able to contribute back. This will be true in every corner of Oregon—in rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. When all of our neighbors are getting the food that they need, all of Oregon thrives.