

Submitter: Anthony Estrada

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

We live in the wealthiest nation in the history of the world. We live in a state with a strong and resilient economy. And, despite all that, we live in a state where thousands of people suffer from food insecurity. The term "food insecurity", while accurate, puts a distancing veneer on a simple and uncomfortable truth. People in our community are starving. People in our community suffer and die from starvation. And it doesn't need to happen. Because we can simply feed them.

Food is a basic human right. No one should be denied food because of their immigration status. SB 611 would enable our most vulnerable populations - the young and the elderly - from to access nutritional benefits they would be entitled to were it not for their immigration status. This is a no-brainer, for various reasons. For one, it is the humane thing to do. Oregon prides itself on its reputation for compassion and inclusivity. The state has an obligation to uphold that reputation by ensuring that the people that make up its community are adequately fed. Furthermore, its a common sense measure with reverberating impacts that benefit EVERYONE. People who aren't starving are less likely to commit crimes born of desperation. They have more money to apply to housing, making it less likely they become homeless. This small investment is actually fiscally sound policy.

Please pass SB 611. It's the right thing to do. It's the smart thing to do. It's the only thing to do.