

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services  
FROM: Oregon Farm to School Network  
SUBJECT: Yes on SB 611

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Melina Barker, I am the Director of the Oregon Farm to School Network. The Oregon Farm to School Network has 1,900 community members that are primarily food producers, child nutrition professionals, and educators. We are 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.

The Oregon Farm to School Network believes that Food is a Human Right. Our freedom, our health, our ability to thrive all depend on access to food that is nutritious and culturally familiar. No one should have to choose between paying their bills or putting food on the table. No family should have to worry about feeding their children at school or at home. Access to food should not depend on where we were born. I urge you to envision an Oregon where anyone who needs food can get it.

In the farm to school movement we see everyday the impact of nourishing food on children's ability to learn and interact in a healthy way at school. This is also true at home. The stability that food access offers extends beyond the calories but into our social emotional health and well being. We know that when we all have access to food, we're all better off. Kids do better in school, our families' health and well-being improves, and our economy thrives through the support of local businesses. This is 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.

Please fully fund SB 611.

Sincerely,  
Melina Barker  
Oregon Farm to School Network, Director