

Submitter: Tanya Crenshaw  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611  
TO: Senate Committee on Human Services  
SUBJECT: Yes on SB 611

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

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 611, Food for All Oregonians, which would ensure that Oregon's youth and elderly – regardless of immigration status – have equitable access to the food they need to be members of resilient communities

I am a native Oregonian. I grew up in Salem. There were many years where my family lived at or below the poverty line. We didn't know about the resources available to us. As a kid, I have clear memories of an empty refrigerator, of going to bed hungry. When I moved to Portland, as a first-generation college student, there were many times where I had to stretch five dollars into a week of groceries. It didn't always work.

I know this first-hand: Not having enough food is isolating and stressful. It's hard to study and do well on exams. It's hard to do a good job at work. And when I was evicted without notice in 1998, it was near-impossible to be resilient in the face of these multiple hardships.

Oregon is facing a hunger crisis: 1 in 6 children don't have enough to eat. Many people in my state lack access to vital food assistance simply because of where they 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. These are Youth and Elders who are currently excluded from SNAP solely due to immigration status.

I want my state to be home to all kinds of resilient communities. I want these communities – rural, suburban, and urban alike – made up of folks who have equitable access to the resources they need to be fed and to flourish despite the knocks that happen in life.

Thank you for being a reader,

Tanya Crenshaw

PS. If you are wondering how to pay for this, feel free to keep all my kicker checks.