

Submitter: Ali Ibrahim  
On Behalf Of: SOMALI OREGON SERVICE CENTER  
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

Testimony of Ali Ibrahim

On Behalf of the Somali Oregon Service Center

Before the Oregon Legislature

Regarding “Food for Oregonians” – Tackling Hunger for Disadvantaged Communities, Immigrants, and Refugees

My name is Ali Ibrahim, and I am honored to testify today on behalf of the Somali Oregon Service Center in strong support of the “Food for Oregonians” initiative. Our organization serves immigrants, refugees, and other disadvantaged communities across Oregon, ensuring they have the resources and support necessary to build stable, thriving lives.

Hunger is an urgent crisis affecting too many Oregonians, especially those from immigrant and refugee backgrounds. Families who have fled conflict, economic hardship, or political instability arrive in our state seeking safety and opportunity. Yet, they often face significant barriers—language challenges, employment difficulties, and lack of access to culturally appropriate food resources.

The “Food for Oregonians” initiative is a critical step in tackling this crisis. By expanding access to nutritious food, increasing culturally responsive food programs, and strengthening support systems for disadvantaged communities, this effort ensures that no Oregonian—regardless of their background—goes hungry.

At the Somali Oregon Service Center, we have seen firsthand how food insecurity impacts the families we serve. Many parents must choose between paying rent and feeding their children. Seniors in our community often go without meals. Children struggle to focus in school due to hunger. These are unacceptable realities in a state

as resourceful as Oregon.

We urge you to support this initiative and invest in solutions that meet the diverse needs of our communities. By ensuring equitable food access, we are not just addressing hunger—we are promoting health, stability, and dignity for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and leadership on this critical issue. I welcome any questions and look forward to working together to build a hunger-free Oregon.

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