

Submitter: Langston Hamilton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

I am in support of this proposal because as a sanctuary state, Oregon should extend the same social welfare programs it extends to its citizens to the same immigrants it is willing to shelter and support. Offering a sanctuary state is a moot point if the people we invite here are unable to access basic needs to survive and have what they need to find work, get engaged in their communities, and thrive. As someone who uses free food shares around here, the amount of time required to stand in line waiting for your turn to take whatever is left is a hardship for many working families, and is inaccessible for many working families. As a teacher in Portland Public Schools, I am ineligible for SNAP, but I know for a certainty that if families in my class were able to supplement the food coming into the home with SNAP benefits, they would have a huge weight lifted off of their shoulders, and the benefits would be clear for everyone in our school community, as many members of the community would be having to struggle less to have their basic needs met.

Also, please review the language of this proposal, 'but for their immigration status' seems like a typo: Establishes the Food for All Oregonians Program in the Department of Human Services to provide nutrition assistance to residents of this state who would qualify for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program but for their immigration status.