

Submitter: Anne Le

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

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

My name is Anne Le and I live in the Lents Neighborhood in Portland, Oregon. I am a daughter of refugees of the Vietnam War, which has informed my strong belief in community safety net programs. I am writing 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.

I support Food for All because I was a recipient of SNAP benefits in college and off and on post college. I was so grateful for access to this programming because it enabled access to healthy options, which boosted my physical and mental health as a working student. It is absolutely unfair to think about my peers not having access due to their immigration status; especially knowing that they paid taxes and working citizens.

Oregon is facing a hunger crisis, and it is getting worse. Today, 1 in 6 children in Oregon don't have enough to eat, and one-third more Oregonians face hunger than before the COVID-19 pandemic. Food pantries across the state are confronting record-breaking levels of demand– the Oregon Food Bank has never seen this level of urgent need in its 40+ years of food banking.

Despite paying billions in annual taxes in Oregon, immigrant Oregonians are twice as likely to face hunger and poverty in our state. Thousands of immigrant and refugee Oregonians are excluded from vital food assistance due to their immigration status.

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. Food for All will build on successful, community-driven navigator models to ensure trust and community safety.

This is why I am urging your YES vote on SB 611. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Anne Le  
Portland, Oregon