

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 611, which seeks to establish the Food for All Oregonians program. This bill is a crucial step toward ensuring that all residents of Oregon have access to essential nutrition assistance.

The proposed program aims to provide nutrition assistance to young adults under 25 and seniors over 55 who currently do not qualify for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) due to their immigration status. By addressing these gaps, SB 611 will help to reduce hunger for vulnerable populations who are at higher risk of food insecurity, and improve the overall health and well-being of our community.

The bill also mandates the Department of Human Services to conduct statewide outreach, education, and engagement efforts to maximize enrollment in the program. This proactive approach will ensure that all eligible residents are aware of and can access the benefits they need.

In addition to providing direct support to individuals and families, the Food for All Oregonians program will have broader positive impacts on our state. By reducing food insecurity, we can expect to see improvements in public health, educational outcomes, and economic stability. Ensuring that all residents have access to adequate nutrition is not only a moral imperative but also a sound investment in the future of Oregon.

No one should go hungry in our state. I urge you to support SB 611.

Sincerely,

Erica Bailey
District 44