

Submitter: Neil Moffett
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611
TO: Senate Committee on Human Services
SUBJECT: NO on SB 611

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

My name is Neil Moffett and I live in Scio in Linn County. I own and operate a small, pasture-based livestock farm. I sell our legally-inspected and -processed meat directly to local Oregon families. I have customers who pay with SNAP and I always give families with children a discount to help support them. I greatly admire people who have the courage and drive to immigrate to America and in many ways I believe they embody American values more than many who are born here. I have worked with (not employed) illegal immigrants and they are great people. Nevertheless I am writing in strong opposition to Senate Bill 611.

Illegal aliens are breaking the law. If they are children, then either they are victims of child-trafficking or their parents are breaking the law. Illegal immigrants should never qualify for any form of government assistance other than being escorted back to some other country where they may reside legally and apply to immigrate legally. It is monstrous for anyone to suggest that someone who is willfully breaking immigration law ought to receive food assistance which in practice preferences them over legal U.S. residents who do not have anyone speaking up for them.

We know that there are Americans starving, malnourished, or otherwise in need of food assistance -- we can all see them sleeping under highway overpasses when we drive into Portland or any other major city. Young American couples are not having children because having a child is considered a luxury that working partners can't afford, and yet we have "American" corporations hiring illegal aliens at below-market wages and denying jobs to Americans. Does anyone in the Oregon legislature ever even talk to working Oregonians? Has anyone bothered to go talk to the legal residents who live in trailers, or sleep in tents on the city sidewalks? To experience and understand the depressing misery and poverty in which so many people are living? Obviously not, or none of you would have had the gall to suggest that instead of helping real Americans you ought to instead offer even more aid to foreigners who are breaking the law. While the special interest groups, all of whom get paid, lobby you to provide "more aid for immigrants", all these actual Oregon citizens are forgotten. Nobody is helping them. You'll enact a program to inform illegal aliens in their own language how to navigate the government bureaucracy to obtain aid, but who is going out in the street and offering the homeless veteran a sandwich?

Everyone who supports this bill is disgusting. None of you cares at all about the people involved. You are all just lining your pockets with the money you get from major food corporations who see illegal immigrants on food aid as a profit center. If you actually cared about the people involved, at all, you would be (i) cooperating with Federal authorities to stop child trafficking, (ii) helping real Americans -- not foreigners but people who were actually born here -- to get back on their feet, and (iii) demanding or incentivizing all Oregon businesses to pay real family wages to real Oregon working families. And you would do everything you can to discourage people from illegal immigration and to instead incentivize those hard-working, wonderful, potential future Americans and Oregonians to immigrate here LEGALLY so that they may deserve and receive all the rights and privileges to which LEGAL immigrants are entitled. Including food aid if they fall on hard times.

But you won't do that, will you? Because this bill isn't about helping people, at all. It's about the fact that the Federal government is removing a corporate profit center, and your paymasters have told you to fill in the gap with State funds. You pusillanimous mountebanks.

Vote no, and give Oregon women free healthcare instead.