

To Co-Chairs Lieber & Sanchez, and all members of the Ways & Means Committee,

We are Oregonians from Portland and Lake Oswego who strongly support Food For All Oregonians and SB 611, because we want everyone in our communities to have food security! Moreover, it is beneficial for everyone to live in a community in which all residents' basic needs are met, where young people are healthy and educated, old people are taken care of, and poverty is prevented. But sadly, 1 in 6 children in our state cannot count on having sufficient food. Their parents may have jobs and pay taxes, yet cannot afford to feed their family. Fortunately, we have the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and now, through SB 611, Oregon can extend that same assistance to all Oregon residents who qualify economically, regardless of immigration status. Food is a basic human right in our book, so citizenship should not be a consideration.

We are proud to live in a state that is welcoming, and where people want all their neighbors to thrive. We just happen to have been born in the U.S. to parents who could provide us with everything we needed. That did not make us more deserving of food than any other children. Everyone deserves to have their basic needs met--nutrition, health care, shelter, and safety--whatever their age, nationality, abilities, or economic situation. No one in Oregon should ever go hungry!

Please include the necessary funding for the Food For All Oregonians Program through **SB 611** when you pass **HB 5006**.

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