

Submitter: Sindy Avila

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee, My name is Sindy Avila, a first-generation migrant who grew up experiencing hunger in Marion County, a rural area home to agricultural workers and hardworking families. As a former educator in the Hillsboro and Tigard-Tualatin School Districts, I've witnessed firsthand the impact of food shortages on students and their families. Oregon is facing a hunger crisis, with 1 in 6 children not having enough to eat, and immigrant Oregonians are twice as likely to face hunger and poverty. Despite paying billions in taxes, many are excluded from vital food assistance due to immigration status. Through my experiences, I have seen how systemic barriers and low-income backgrounds contribute to these food shortages. SB 611 is crucial as it will allow all low-income youth and elder Oregonians to access the grocery benefits they need, regardless of immigration status. When everyone has access to food, our families thrive, our economy grows, and Oregon becomes a better place for all. This initiative is essential for supporting the most marginalized among us and ensuring no one goes hungry. I urge you to vote YES on SB 611. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Sindy Avila