

Submitter: Mallory Pratt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611
TO: Senate Committee on Human Services
SUBJECT: Yes on SB 611

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee,
My name is Mallory Pratt and I live in Portland. I am a veteran science educator having taught at public high schools, alternative schools and a private college during my career. I can't think of a more basic requirement for success in education than having students and their families and neighbors have food they can eat. No calories in, no learning out. There were many students whose families absolutely depended on the free shopping bags of groceries provided weekly at the alternative high school where I last taught. We did not ask for their immigration status because it's irrelevant to having a functioning community. Up to one-third of all food sold in the US goes to a landfill, meanwhile 1 in 6 children in Oregon don't get enough to eat, many because of where they were born? Please don't tell me that Oregon can't manage to ensure that food is available to all that need it, period.

I urge you to work to pass SB 611 and stop this nonsensical policy of using immigration status as barrier to accessing food. You can't educate people to help them change their lives when they are hungry or constantly worried about when their next meal might be. It's basic biology. So let's use the knowledge of what humans need to be functioning members of our community to pass legislation such as SB 611.

Thank you for the work you do on behalf of improving civilization in our state of Oregon.

Respectfully,
Mallory J Pratt