

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 Yadira, I'm a daughter of immigrants. I am writing in **strong support of Senate Bill 611**, Food For All Oregonians which would ensure Youth and Elder Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy.

My parents, like many others, came to the United States to fulfill the "American Dream". They prided themselves on never asking for public assistance because they didn't want to burden the government, as there was shame associated with asking for help. There were many times where all we had to eat were beans and tortillas. This is not a unique experience and I believe if we start to normalize and expand on these social services, children and the elderly will no longer have to suffer with hunger.

As a public health professional, we can attribute health outcomes to various social determinants of health. Food insecurity, which can be defined as inaccessibility to healthy foods, is a negative factor that can contribute to unhealthy dietary patterns that could put people at high-risk for obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. The following are direct quotes from the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion - Healthy People 2030 that support these statements. "Access to foods that support healthy dietary patterns supports health not only at that point in time but also across the lifespan and possibly for future generations" and "Having access to healthy, safe, and affordable food is crucial for an individual to achieve a healthy dietary pattern." If we want to create a healthy Oregon for everyone, this bill is essential in achieving that. <https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/access-foods-support-healthy-dietary-patterns#cit3>

Despite paying billions in annual taxes in Oregon, immigrant Oregonians are twice as likely to face hunger and poverty in our state. Thousands of immigrant and refugee Oregonians are excluded from vital food assistance due to their immigration status.

These are our neighbors, our family, our friends, the children our kids play with, our coworkers and their loved ones– the people who help make Oregon a beautiful place to live. Access to food should not depend on where we were born. **I urge you to envision an Oregon where anyone who needs food can get it.**

Food for All Oregonians (SB 611) will allow low-income Youth and Elder Oregonians to access the grocery benefits they need to thrive. These are Youth and Elders who are currently excluded from SNAP solely due to immigration status. Food for All will build on successful, community-driven navigator models to ensure trust and community safety.

This is why I am urging your YES vote on SB 611. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Yadira Perez Lozano
Tigard, Oregon