

Submitter: Roberta Deppe

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 Roberta Deppe, and I live in Portland, OR. I am a Licensed Professional Counselor and have worked with military veterans at the Portland V.A. and with elders and parents of young children in my private practice. 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.

When adults seek treatment for mental health issues, they are often dealing with basic food security issues as well. I have seen firsthand how obtaining SNAP benefits can free individuals from a pressing preoccupation with finding food for the coming week/s and make possible a greater focus on taking care of self and family in other ways. I have also seen how a family member having access to SNAP for can free others around them from the impossible bind of sharing already minimal resources (food, time, money) and allow them to focus on work, parenting, community ties, etc...

Supporting individuals who care for others and caring for vulnerable community members regardless of their immigrations status is not only the ethical thing to do, it is in our self-interest if we wish to build community stability and have more of our neighbors moving out of survival mode and moving towards health and connection. I will let others address the economic benefits of Food for All, but as I understand it, they are substantial.

Please vote YES on SB 611. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Roberta Deppe

Portland, Oregon