

My name is Isabella Tolba, and I am a sophomore at Lincoln High School in Portland. I am writing to advocate for Senate Bill 611, which establishes the Food for All Oregonians Program. To me, this bill is a moral pledge affirming that food is a human right, one that no bureaucratic decree should deny.

In Oregon, 62,000 individuals are excluded from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program because of their immigration status. But unlike SNAP, hunger does not ask for stamped papers, nor does it honor the borders we erect.

In my community, hunger has a face and a beating heart. It is the child who struggles to focus in class because they have not eaten since yesterday. It is the mother who skips meals so her children can have enough. It is the elderly neighbor who worked his whole life but now cannot afford groceries. Their life stories remind us that dignity must never be rationed.

Poverty is neither a crime nor a character flaw. So, I urge you to act with empathy, let your humanity transcend all lines drawn in the sand, and pass Senate Bill 611.