

Submitter:

Eileen Lipkin

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB611

I have in my long career worked with children via educational institutions (schools public and private), as a non profit provider of mental health and behavioral health for children and families and I am a voting citizen of Multnomah County and I urge you to pass the Food for All Oregonians bill. Children who attend school or work on homework hungry cannot adequately concentrate or absorb what they learn. Lack of adequate nutrition results in sometimes permanent damage to growth, to immune system, to brain development and thus impairs their future as effective citizens, and their chances for equal earning power and contribution to our society and in fact, costs Oregonians more in demands on health care systems, in teachers dealing with students who require more help and in fewer well educated workers and citizens. In addition to children, if an adult parent or caretaker is hungry, their own concentration, and patience is impaired making them at risk to be less prepared to help their children and elders. And we have Meals on Wheels because we know seniors might be unable to afford meals without help, as many live on fixed, often low incomes. Many immigrants are working long hours and more than one job to get by, especially now when groceries are increasingly expensive, and their retired seniors might have no pension at all in an extended family stretched thin. Most importantly, it is an equity and justice issue. No human should be hungry regardless of their origins. Please pass SB 611 Food for All Oregonians.