

Submitter: Kelly Miller
On Behalf Of: Turning Point Community Services Center
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

My name is Kelly Miller, and I am the Executive Director of Turning Point Community Services Center, which is the only local food pantry for Clatskanie, OR as well as HOPE of Rainier food pantry, which is the only local food pantry in Rainier, OR. I have seen an increase in folks needing food assistance in both cities due to a variety of reasons. Cost of housing, cost of groceries, cost of utilities, and no increase in wages and/or Social Security. This breaks my heart! Folks should never struggle to nourish their bodies or worry about feeding their children. Although these two cities do not have a huge immigrant population, there are some families that are. It shouldn't matter if a city has one family with immigrant status or 5 million with immigrant status - all humans have a right to be treated with dignity and should have access to nourishing food. People that are struggling to feed their families should never be afraid to ask for help! The amount of racism and discrimination in this country has gotten out of control and needs to change. When did we become who we have become? Better yet, why? I have always said that if I can help just one person make their experience a bit easier - than I am doing my job! The amount of invasion by our government on our privacy is also out of control. Immigrants have built America. Immigrants support our economy. The least we can do is make sure they are fed.