

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB611

Hello: For many years, both in California and in Oregon, I have volunteered with various organizations that have been instrumental in making sure families have enough food. Most recently, I was involved in a "Backpack Program" at a local Elementary School, where backpacks of shelf stable food were sent home with students on Thursdays or Fridays, to help the families get through the weekend. Currently, I volunteer at that same Elementary School to help distribute Oregon Food Bank groceries to local families. This effort often starts at 6:30am, and we often have 80-90 people in line. We often run out of food before the last person in line gets their turn. My job is to staff a table, and tell folks that we can only offer them one carton of shelf-stable milk, or one bag of rice, or one cucumber. My job is also to witness the people standing in line and seeing their anxiety - will they get enough? Will they get through the line before the fresh fruit is out of stock? I love volunteering for this effort, but I hate seeing human beings - my neighbors/old and young - standing in line for 45+ minutes for a simple bag of groceries. I hate seeing that haunted look in their eyes. I can't imagine what they have to deal with on a weekly basis, trying to keep food in the fridge/cupboard. What do they say to their kids who ask for a snack before bed? I thank my lucky stars that I've never been in that situation myself, there but for fortune . The Federal Government is out of control and seriously scaring everyone, including me. The food that is offered to these communities must continue! We cannot leave these people with no resources.