

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Lithicum, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shannon Jones Isadore and I am proud to serve as the state representative for House District 33, which spans downtown and NW Portland, Linnton, and Cathedral Park. I am a strong supporter and co-sponsor of SB 611 which makes food assistance available for youth and elders who are excluded from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) due to their immigration status.

Sadly, many Oregonians are ineligible for federal food assistance because of their immigration status. Here in Oregon, we know that all Oregonians need and deserve access to food, no matter where they are from. Immigrants and refugees are essential members of our communities— they are our neighbors and friends, and they are also key members of the workforce and taxpaying citizens. It's unacceptable that there are farmworkers who are planting, growing, and harvesting food that sustain our state's food systems, yet they cannot access these foods for themselves and their families. We know that food access improves health outcomes, helps families stay housed, and supports kids' learning, all of which creates savings for the state. Additionally, food assistance dollars stimulate Oregon's economy and support our local businesses.

SB 611 keeps costs down by focusing on the immigrant populations most in need of support— youth and seniors. It also includes culturally specific resource navigation to ensure that this program is truly accessible. We must take care of our most vulnerable communities.

I urge your support of SB 611 to ensure food access for all. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rep. Shannon Jones Isadore



**Rep. Shannon Jones Isadore**

Oregon State Legislature, House District 33  
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