



944 W 5TH AVE.  
EUGENE, OR 97402  
(541) 687-2667

[WWW.PLAZACOMUNIDAD.ORG](http://WWW.PLAZACOMUNIDAD.ORG)

February 13, 2025

Subject: Testimony in support of SB 611 Food for All Oregonians

On behalf of Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad, I am writing to express support for Senate Bill 611 Food For All Oregonians which would ensure everyone in our community has access to the food they need.

Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad is a Lane County based nonprofit whose mission is to support the lives of Latinx and immigrant community members by creating a safe space that fosters leadership, education, wellness, and connection. We offer a wide range of services including educational programming for youth and adults, mental health and substance use disorder counseling, support for small-businesses, community gardens, and basic needs navigation. Having dependable access to nutritious foods is a human right, but right now, hunger is a painful reality for too many Oregonians. As with most social issues, the heaviest impact is felt by our most underserved communities and by those who have been historically and systematically marginalized. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Latinx Oregonians experienced hunger at twice the rate of white Oregonians, which is a gap that continues to widen.

We work to address hunger in our community by enrolling eligible clients for SNAP benefits and referring them to other service providers, such as community resources and food banks. We also host a well-attended mobile pantry which distributes fresh and shelf stable culturally relevant foods twice a month, and we have six community gardens for families to grow their own organic food. But these services cannot fully meet the need for food access and security in our communities.

Our clients share that food distribution events can be a challenge to attend while juggling employment, childcare, and attaining an education. Sometimes they do not feel that the amount of food they receive is sufficient, or that they do not receive enough of the foods that their families eat. Additionally, there is often confusion and fear in the community about who is eligible to receive SNAP benefits. A more comprehensive solution is highly needed, and SB 611 offers us the opportunity to create an impactful positive change.

At Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad, we know that when all of our neighbors are getting the food that they need, all of Oregon thrives. For that reason, we urge you to vote yes on SB 611. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Gatlin Fasone Alshuyukh  
Organic Garden Program Manager  
Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad