

Ethiopian and Eritrean Cultural and Resource Center (EECRC)  
1515 SE 122nd Ave # 1509 A Portland OR 97233  
[eecrc2021@gmail.com](mailto:eecrc2021@gmail.com), 503 462 9806

02/11/2025

**Senate Committee on Human Services**  
Oregon State Legislature

**RE: Support for SB 611 – Food for All Oregonians**

Dear Chair , Vice-Chair , and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Ethiopian and Eritrean Cultural and Resource Center (EECRC), I am writing to express our strong support for SB 611 and the *Food for All Oregonians* initiative. EECRC has been actively advocating for equitable food access and stands with this movement to address the critical food insecurity challenges faced by many immigrant and refugee communities in Oregon.

EECRC serves a diverse population of African immigrants and refugees, many of whom experience barriers to accessing basic resources, including nutritious and culturally appropriate food. Our community members—comprising low-income families, individuals with disabilities, seniors, and single parents—often struggle to meet their dietary needs due to financial hardship, lack of eligibility for food assistance programs, and language barriers.

The *Food for All Oregonians* initiative is essential in ensuring that everyone, regardless of immigration status, has access to food assistance. Food insecurity does not discriminate, and neither should our policies. Expanding access to food resources will not only improve health outcomes but also support economic stability, community well-being, and overall self-sufficiency for thousands of Oregonians.

We urge you to pass SB 611 and take a critical step toward making Oregon a place where no one goes hungry. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue and for considering this testimony in support of ensuring food for all.

Sincerely,

*Yonas K*

**Yonas Kassie, Executive Director**  
Ethiopian and Eritrean Cultural and Resource Center