

OREGON WORKING FAMILIES PARTY

Testimony in support of SB 611

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Annie Naranjo-Rivera, Oregon Working Families Party

March 24, 2025

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

My name is Annie Naranjo-Rivera, and I am the State Director of the Oregon Working Families Party. Founded in 2006, the Oregon Working Families Party fights for an economy that works for all of us. I am writing to you today in support of **SB 611**.

The Oregon Working Families Party State Committee is composed of labor organizations, community-based organizations, and individuals committed to creating a political home for the working class. However, food insecurity is an issue that transcends political affiliations and geographic boundaries—it affects families and individuals in every corner of our state.

No family should be forced to put their children to bed hungry, regardless of their place of residence or immigration status. We are particularly concerned about food insecurity among our immigrant neighbors, who are currently excluded from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits solely due to their immigration status.

Access to nutritious food is a fundamental human right and ORS 458.530 states “All persons have the right to be free from hunger.”

No one in Oregon should go hungry because of bureaucratic barriers or because they slip through a tear in our safety net. **SB 611** would provide critical nutrition assistance to vulnerable community members under the age of 26 and over the age of 55 who would otherwise qualify for SNAP. Additionally, the bill's education, outreach, and engagement components will ensure that those most in need are aware of and able to access these resources.

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By passing **SB 611**, the Legislature has an opportunity to promote equitable access to food assistance, improve public health outcomes, and strengthen communities across Oregon.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your YES vote on **SB 611**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Annie Naranjo-Rivera
State Director
Oregon Working Families Party