

Greetings

I write in support of SB 611. I am a member of the Committee on Hunger and Homelessness at First Unitarian Church Portland. In addition, I am a member of the advocacy team at the Interfaith Alliance on Poverty, a coalition of 14 faith communities with a mission to address the causes and consequences of poverty.

SB 611 provides vital support for the young (under 18) and old (55 and older) of our undocumented neighbors. I write during Spring Break week when school meals are unavailable for children, impacting our low income neighbors the hardest. SB 611 would provide a modest state support for the target population in a manor similar to federal food stamps.

This reasonable and necessary support is a high priority for me and for my colleagues. Protecting the young and old of a society is a low, first step in a just community.

I encourage the committee members to vote in favor of SB 611 and then encourage your colleagues in the full senate to do the same.

Thank you for your public service to all, yes ALL Oregonians.

John Elizalde