

Submitter: Melissa Reed
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611
TO: Senate Committee on Human Services
SUBJECT: Yes on SB 611

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

My name is Rev. Melissa Reed and I live in Portland. I am a Lutheran pastor and Associate to the Bishop of the Oregon Synod, ELCA, serving over 100 Lutheran congregations across Oregon. I am a part of the Sacred Organizing Coalition. And I am also a mother of a 16 year old and 11 year old. Our neighborhood school is Title 1. I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 611, Food For All Oregonians which would ensure Youth and Elder Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy.

I support Food for All because my kids attend Title 1 schools in NE Portland and as federal funds are cut for our schools and prices of groceries go up, I am hearing that many families are struggling to make ends meet. I am concerned that families will be doubly hit. Children need healthy food to learn and grow. Making sure all families in Oregon can have their basic needs met allows for a healthy society that is safe and productive.

Please feel free to use any of the messages below you find most compelling:

Oregon is facing a hunger crisis, and it is getting worse. Today, 1 in 6 children in Oregon don't have enough to eat, and one-third more Oregonians face hunger than before the COVID-19 pandemic. Food pantries across the state are confronting record-breaking levels of demand— the Oregon Food Bank has never seen this level of urgent need in its 40+ years of food banking.

Food for All Oregonians (SB 611) will allow low-income Youth and Elder Oregonians to access the grocery benefits they need to thrive. These are Youth and Elders who are currently excluded from SNAP solely due to immigration status. Food for All will build on successful, community-driven navigator models to ensure trust and community safety.

This is why I am urging your YES vote on SB 611. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rev. Melissa O. Reed
Portland, OR