

Submitter: Beth Poteet

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

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

My name is Beth Poteet, I live in Portland and am part of the Sacred Organizing Coalition. I am a social worker, public health professional, and member of Ainsworth United Church of Christ. 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 have worked with immigrant and refugee communities since I moved to Oregon 20 years ago and have heard about, and sometimes seen, the physical and mental health impacts of not being able to afford enough food, especially nutritious food, to take care of your family. In public health, SB 611 is what we call upstream prevention, which has been proven to be more cost effective than addressing problems after they exist. As our safety net is being quickly eroded at the federal level, it is even more important that we support SB 611 to make sure everyone has access to the basic sustenance of life - food!

Sincerely,
Beth Poteet, MSW