

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services  
SUBJECT: Please Support SB 611

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

My name is Alaide Vilchis Ibarra and I live in Portland, OR. I support immigrant Oregonians across the state and I myself have faced food insecurity when I first arrived in the United States. I am also part of the Sacred Organizing Coalition. 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.

As someone that works accompanying immigrant communities and who has experienced what it's like to arrive in a new country without support, I know the difference that having access to our support to meet our basic needs can make. In the early 2000s, I was a new immigrant going to school and receiving free breakfast and lunch. The support we received accessing that food was critical as my family navigated adapting to a new culture. It allowed us to have to worry about one less thing as my parents found jobs that made enough money for us to pay the rent. We only received the support for a couple of years before we could get on our feet. Twenty-five years later, I want to live in a state that doubles down in supporting access to food for all of us and I urge you to join me.

**Despite paying *billions* in annual taxes in Oregon, immigrant Oregonians are twice as likely to face hunger and poverty in our state.** Thousands of immigrant and refugee Oregonians are excluded from vital food assistance due to their immigration status.

We know that when we all have access to food, we're all better off. Kids do better in school, our families' health and well-being improves, and our economy thrives through the support of local businesses. This is true in every corner of Oregon—in rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. When all of our neighbors are getting the food that they need, all of Oregon thrives.

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

Sincerely,  
Alaide Vilchis Ibarra  
Portland, OR