

Submitter: Samuel Murillo
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Vice-Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith, and Members of the Committee,

I am Samuel Murillo, and I proudly call Cascade Locks my home. I urge you to prioritize the needs of Oregonians in your state budget, mainly the Food for All Oregonians initiative. As a proud son of migrant parents who arrived in Oregon in 1980 and now a husband and father, I stand in strong support of Food For All Oregonians (Senate Bill 611). This bill ensures that our youth and elder Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, have access to the nourishment they need to thrive.

It's challenging to comprehend a system that overlooks those who contribute so much to our communities—our farmworkers, dairy workers, cattle hands, mill workers, and those in the packing houses. I have witnessed firsthand how employers speak highly of their employees, yet a significant flaw exists in not supporting the very individuals who empower our economy. This bill represents a crucial step forward, and I ask you to be the champions of change that all of Oregon desires.

Oregon is facing an escalating hunger crisis. One in six children here struggle to find enough to eat, and one-third more Oregonians have experienced hunger since the COVID-19 pandemic. Food pantries throughout the state are confronting unprecedented demand. The Oregon Food Bank has never seen such dire need in over 40 years of service.

Despite contributing billions in taxes annually, immigrant Oregonians are disproportionately affected by hunger and poverty. Thousands of immigrant and refugee individuals are barred from essential food assistance due to their immigration status.

These are our neighbors, families, and friends—the children our kids play with, our coworkers, and their loved ones. They help make Oregon a vibrant and beautiful place to live. The circumstances of our birth should not dictate access to food. I encourage you to imagine an Oregon where everyone in need can find nourishment.

This is why I implore you to include SB 611 in Oregon's budget. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Samuel Murillo
Cascade Locks