

Submitter: Kristyn Anderson  
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 Kristyn Anderson, a Portland resident, a retiree, a second generation Oregonian, and a member of the Sacred Organizing Coalition.

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 611, Food For All Oregonians. Approving this bill in committee, and in the Senate and House, is important because it will ensure that young people and elderly Oregonians have access to the food they need to keep them healthy.

I encourage you to vote yes for SB 611.

SB 611 hits home for me. Two of my family members rely upon SNAP benefits. My sister, 65, is disabled and has been for more than 15 years. She lives in Portland.

My niece (not her daughter) is 34. She lives in Clackamas County. She was diagnosed in July 2024 with a rare and debilitating neuromuscular disease, Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy. Before the diagnosis of this aggressive disease, she became unable to work. CIDP disease is progressive and irreversible; it has taken away her ability to feel sensations in her hands and feet. In less than a year, her gait has become so impacted, she has moved from using a cane to a walker. She is applying for SSI and that takes time to be accepted. As you can imagine, SNAP benefits are important to her survival.

Without SNAP benefits, neither my sister nor my niece would be able to provide food for themselves. Each of them relies on SNAP, on coupons they can use at specific Farmers Markets to double their purchasing power, and on their respective churches to put healthy food on their tables.

Food for All Oregonians (SB 611) will allow low-income young and elderly Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, to access the grocery benefits they need to live and to thrive.

Not having to stress over where the money will come from to buy food, certainly helps with healing – both physically and mentally. Access to healthy foods allows

Oregonians to care for ourselves and others, and to thrive as a community members.

I urge your YES vote on SB 611, and ask that you help shepherd passage of SB 611 through the Senate.

Thank you for your work on behalf of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,  
Kristyn J. Anderson  
Portland, OR 97215