

Submitter: Alex C.

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

Hi my name is Alex and I live in Tillamook County. I am a single parent and depend on SNAP. I am lucky but I know that here are thousands of families excluded for important programs like SNAP.

Oregon is facing a hunger crisis, and it's only getting worse. Right now, 1 in 6 children in our state don't have enough to eat, and food insecurity has skyrocketed since the pandemic.

I know what it's like to struggle with food insecurity. I've lived it. I know the fear of not knowing where the next meal will come from, the stress of having to choose between food and other necessities. No one should have to go through that especially not children. I don't want my kids, or anyone else, to experience the same hardship. We all deserve to live in a safe Oregon where everyone has access to the food they need to live and thrive.

Yet, thousands of immigrant and refugee Oregonians are excluded from food assistance just because of their immigration status—even though they work hard, pay taxes, and contribute to our communities every single day. These are our neighbors, our friends, our coworkers, and the people who make Oregon the beautiful, diverse place that it is. Access to food shouldn't depend on where someone was born.

That's why we need Food for All Oregonians SB 611. This bill would make sure that low-income youth and elders who are currently left out of food assistance can get the support they need. It builds on trusted, community-led programs to ensure people can safely and easily access these benefits.

Oregon should be a place where no one goes hungry. I urge you to support SB 611 and make sure that everyone, regardless of their background, has the food they need to live with dignity.