



**MICRONESIAN  
ISLANDER  
COMMUNITY**

March 24, 2025

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services

SUBJECT: Yes on SB 611

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

For the record, I am Jackie Leung, Executive Director of the Micronesian Islander Community. I am requesting your support in passing SB 611, the Food For All Oregonians bill. SB 611 would ensure that youth and elderly Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy.

Hunger rates have increased exponentially within the community. Today, 1 in 6 children in Oregon don't have enough food to eat. This is unacceptable. According to the Oregon Food Bank Network report, Oregon's food insecurity rate rose 21% between 2019 and 2020, with as many as 1.7 million people seeking food assistance from the Oregon Food Bank Network.<sup>1</sup> In the past six years, the Micronesian Islander Community has seen a significant increase in demand for food and resources from the community. MIC's monthly food box and grocery shopping distribution events see between 75-100+ households, equaling up to 400 individuals, with additional people who contact us seeking housing, legal assistance, and other support services.

However, food pantries, such as the one we operate in partnership with the local food bank, are a stop-gap measure that may address immediate hunger needs but are **not** long-term solutions for food insecurity.

We continue to see an increase in food insecurity in households.<sup>2</sup> Access to nutritious and affordable food is vital for health and well-being. When children and youth are not hungry, they focus on school and activities, our family's health and well-being improve, and our economy thrives when people shop locally. When no one goes to bed hungry or has to decide between a meal or paying for a utility bill, Oregon prospers.

SB 611 will ensure that all Oregonians have access to food. No one should go to bed hungry. We strongly urge you to support SB 611.

Sincerely, DocuSigned by:

*Jackie Leung*

Jackie Leung, Executive Director

[1] Oregon Food Bank Network Report.

<https://www.oregon.gov/fooddrive/Documents/2022OregonFoodBankNetworkHungerFacts.pdf>

[2] Edwards, M. and Beck, K. Oregon's Food Insecurity Rate at the Arrival of COVID

(2018-2020). [https://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/sites/liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/files/oregon\\_food\\_insecurity\\_rates\\_at\\_arrival\\_of\\_covid\\_2018-2020.pdf](https://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/sites/liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/files/oregon_food_insecurity_rates_at_arrival_of_covid_2018-2020.pdf)