

Submitter: Ian Macrae

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

I am not an immigrant but an old white guy who lives on a Social Security check of \$1132.00 per month plus SNAP. My SNAP card runs out in about a week. After that, I need help, whether from friends or from local food distribution centers. It's very simple, you see. Even with frugal spending and creative variations of meals of beans and rice, lots of Americans don't have enough food to get through the month. We need the help of food banks.

Now imagine the plight of immigrants who don't qualify for ANY form of public benefits. Facing the threat of deportation, many such families rarely leave their apartments. If there is a working family member, he or she may rely on income from shady employers, who may or may not pay them what they are due on payday. Even if the breadwinner has a honest employer, minimum wage doesn't go far after rent, utilities, transportation and other basic costs. It's easy to see that families like these face extreme food insecurity. As poor as I am, I'm rich compared to them.

My Christian values tell me to do what I can for the brother or sister who is poor, no matter their origin, race or religion. I call this basic human decency, a value which our country sorely lacks at this moment. We treat our pets and livestock better than we do the stranger in our midst. Please show the world that Oregon is still a place where we treat each other like humans, not animals. Please pass SB611.