

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 Mackenzie Aime and I live in Eugene, Oregon. I am writing in **strong support of Senate Bill 611**, Food For All Oregonians which would ensure Youth and Elder Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy. I personally know the direct benefit that SNAP can have on families and deeply believe this is something everyone should have access to. Everyone deserves the right to nourishing, chosen meals that feel like home. For all of us, food is essential, it provides our daily sustenance. Food brings many of us together, it is a critical way we take care of one another. Now is the time for the Legislature to extend that same care and support everyone in our communities by investing in Food for All Oregonians.

Oregon is facing a hunger crisis, and it is getting worse. Today, **1 in 6 children in Oregon** don't have enough to eat, and **one-third more Oregonians** face hunger than before the COVID-19 pandemic. Food pantries across the state are confronting **record-breaking levels of demand**– the Oregon Food Bank has never seen this level of urgent need in its 40+ years of food banking.

**Despite paying billions in annual taxes in Oregon, immigrant Oregonians are twice as likely to face hunger and poverty in our state.** Thousands of immigrant and refugee Oregonians are excluded from vital food assistance due to their immigration status.

These are our neighbors, our family, our friends, the children our kids play with, our coworkers and their loved ones– the people who help make Oregon a beautiful place to live. Access to food should not depend on where we were born. **I urge you to envision an Oregon where anyone who needs food can get it.**

Food for All Oregonians (SB 611) will allow low-income Youth and Elder Oregonians to access the grocery benefits they need to thrive. These are Youth and Elders who are currently excluded from SNAP solely due to immigration status. Food for All will build on successful, community-driven navigator models to ensure trust and community safety.

We know that when we all have access to food, we're all better off. Kids do better in school, our families' health and well-being improves, and our economy thrives through the support of local businesses. This is true in every corner of Oregon–in rural, urban,

and suburban communities alike. When all of our neighbors are getting the food that they need, all of Oregon thrives.

Please hear the thousands of Oregonians who have written emails, postcards and attended meetings urging lawmakers to prioritize Food for All Oregonians.

This is why I am urging your YES vote on SB 611. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Mackenzie Aime  
Eugene, Oregon