



To: Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, members of the Senate Committee on Human Services
From: Human Services Coalition of Oregon
Re: Senate Bill 611 – Support for Food for All Oregonians
Date: March 25, 2025

Dear Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and members of the committee,

HSCO is a coalition representing more than 50 human services-aligned organizations across Oregon that collectively share in the belief that improved public policy and strengthened support for human services makes Oregon a stronger state for all of us.

On behalf of the Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO), we urge your support for Senate Bill (SB) 611 – Food for All Oregonians – which makes more food available to little kids, young people, and elders in Oregon who do not qualify for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) due to their immigration status.

Human services systems exist to fill in gaps between basic human needs and lack of resources caused by poverty and related barriers. One of those basic human needs is food. No one can survive without it, but too many people go without *enough*. Food-insecure kids can't grow and learn in healthy ways.¹ Food-insecure elders suffer increased health risks, among other serious problems.²

HSCO supports SB 611 because it models a highly effective nutrition support program – SNAP – and includes navigation help so that hungry people can connect with knowledgeable and trusted assisters. SB 611 offers up an efficient way of increasing food security in extremely vulnerable populations, ultimately preventing the compounding, deleterious impacts of not having enough to eat at home. Investing in solutions that promote dignity and prevent future, worsening problems are both key to successful human services strategy and shared prosperity for all of us. We hope you will support SB 611, Food for All Oregonians. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Contact HSCO: oregonhsco@gmail.com

¹ Cook, J., & Jeng, K. (2009). *Child Food Insecurity: The Economic Impact on our Nation*, 22-23, available at <https://www.nokidhungry.org/sites/default/files/child-economy-study.pdf> (finding that, “Food insecurity * * * depresses both the starting point and the upward trajectory of a child’s education from the moment [a child] enters the kindergarten classroom,” including significantly impacting cognitive ability and mental health.).

² Pooler, J. A., Hartline-Grafton, H., DeBor, M., Sudore, R. L., & Seligman, H. K. (2019). Food Insecurity: A Key Social Determinant of Health for Older Adults. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 67(3), 421–424. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.15736> (finding that, “food insecurity among older adults is associated with multiple negative health outcomes”).