



Submitted to the Senate Committee on Human Services

March 25, 2025

Testimony in Support of SB 611

By: Shannon Wight, Deputy Director of Partnership for Safety and Justice

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 611. Partnership for Safety and Justice (PSJ) advocates for public safety policies that ensure accountability, equity, and healing for people convicted of crime, crime survivors, and the families and communities of both. For over 25 years, our work has promoted community and public safety with policies that keep families together, reduce racial disparities, and invest in communities across Oregon.

Safer communities are thriving communities and access to food is critical for children to succeed in school and for adults to maintain stable employment. These same outcomes are crime prevention indicators. Partnership for Safety and Justice support SB 611 because it creates the stability individuals and communities need to be safe.

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.

PSJ believes that to create safer streets and stronger communities, we need to focus on reducing the economic and social barriers that prevent people from thriving. Ensuring adequate food for Oregonians in need is an important step towards accomplishing this goal.

SB 611 would provide SNAP-like benefits for youth and elderly Oregonians regardless of their immigration status. This bill will make our communities healthier, stronger, and safer.

We urge your support of SB 611.