



To: Senate Committee on Human Services  
From: Oregon Education Association  
Re: Support for SB 611

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

The Oregon Education Association represents nearly 42,000 educators and staff from K-12 to 11 of our state's community colleges. OEA is 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.

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.

We know that it is harder for children to learn if they are hungry. Our members see hungry students every single day. And, 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.

When students can access nourishing food that feels like home, our communities thrive. Kids succeed in school, families stay healthy, and local economies grow when all Oregonians can afford groceries. This is true in every corner of Oregon – in rural, urban, and suburban communities alike.

This bill would help struggling immigrants, refugees, and families across our state. These are our neighbors, our family, our friends, our students, the children our kids play with, our coworkers and their loved ones– the people who help make Oregon a beautiful place to live.

For all these reasons, the Oregon Education Association urges your strong support of SB 611.

Kevin Sullivan  
kevin.sullivan@oregoned.org