

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

My name is Guillermina Guzman and I live in Salem, OR. I am a parent and grandmother. 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.

My story, like many others, is connected to being an immigrant who also had to navigate needing food assistance at certain points in my life due to being a single mother and being low income. I was fortunate enough that I was able to receive SNAP to help me and my daughter through those times but I always think about the single moms that are not able to do the same and don't have a network to be supported. I've since had the opportunity to attend some community college classes, to be a homeowner, and to witness my daughters obtain higher education. However, I know that even with all of these accomplishments we are always a step closer to needing assistance than we are to being billionaires.

Food For All Oregonians will make it possible for individuals to have their basic needs met and when doing so they are more likely to thrive in their communities. 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.

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.

Oregonians across the state have sent THOUSANDS of emails and postcards to lawmakers, urging them to prioritize Food for All Oregonians. The time to pass Food for All is NOW, during this session.

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

Sincerely,
Guillermina Guzman
Salem, OR