

Dear Oregon Senators and Representatives,

As the daughter of immigrants and now a social worker in our community, I have a unique perspective on how hunger affects families. Growing up in Hillsboro, my parents worked two jobs each, yet I remember nights when dinner was just tortillas and beans and not quite enough of it. We kids didn't understand why, but my parents did: as new immigrants back then, they weren't eligible for any assistance, even when times were tough. Now, years later, I work with families facing the same struggles. Just last week I visited a home where the fridge was nearly empty. The parents were too afraid to ask for help because of their immigration status, and their little ones were going to bed hungry. It broke me all over again, reminding me of my own childhood.

No Oregonian should relive that pain today. We have an opportunity to break this cycle. SB 611 would ensure that families who contribute to our state aren't left in the shadows when they need help the most. Food is a human right — I truly believe that with all my heart. Please, as someone who has lived this reality and now serves others living it, I urge you to pass SB 611. Let's show that Oregon cares for all its families, regardless of where we come from.