

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly,

I am a single mother of three from Portland, writing with hope in my heart. I live and work in Portland Oregon, but with the cost of rent and everything rising, I still find myself struggling to put enough food on the table. There have been nights when I had only a little soup and let my kids eat whatever solid food we had left. I've felt like I was failing as a mother, even though I'm doing everything I can. We receive SNAP benefits, and still it barely gets us through the month. I cannot imagine how much worse it would be if we were completely denied help like so many immigrant families are.

No parent should have to see their child go hungry in Oregon. I'm thinking of the mothers I've met at our community center who can't get any food assistance because of their immigration status. They love their children just as fiercely as I do, and it breaks me to see their pain. We are all Oregonian moms just trying to feed our kids. Please, have the compassion to include everyone by passing SB 611. Food for All Oregonians is not just a slogan, it's what I pray for every night. By voting yes on SB 611, you can ensure that no mother or father in our state has to face the agony of an empty pantry and hungry children. You have the power to ease our burden. Use it now.