

Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives,

I'm a mom in Beaverton and I work at my daughter's elementary school. One of her best friends is a quiet little girl who started coming to our house after school more often this year. She would be ravenous, eating big snacks, and I just thought she had a healthy appetite. But one evening I was talking with her mother and learned the heartbreaking truth: the family was struggling to afford food because the parents' immigration status made them ineligible for SNAP. That little girl wasn't just hungry after school, she was hungry, period. I had been unknowingly feeding her some days.

As a mother, knowing a child my daughter cares about was going without food shook me deeply. I have never had to worry that my own child would miss a meal, and it doesn't seem fair that her friend had to. No child in Oregon should be hungry, and certainly not because of red tape over where their parents were born. I find that cruel and unacceptable. I'm writing to ask you to please support SB 611, the Food for All Oregonians bill. This is personal to me now. I've seen the face of a hungry child, and I can't ignore it. With SB 611, we can make sure every parent can access the help they need to feed their kids. Please, do this for the children in our community. They deserve nothing less