

March 25, 2025

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services  
FROM: Ali King on behalf of Our Children Oregon  
SUBJECT: Support for SB 611

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

I was registered to testify in person at this hearing, but we ran out of time, so I'm submitting the testimony I would have delivered.

For the record, my name is Ali King and I am the Policy and Advocacy Director for Our Children Oregon, a statewide organization that champions equitable policies and opportunities for every child. **SB 611** is a **top priority** of our 2025 Children's Agenda and has **strong and broad support** from our coalition of more than 135 partner organizations statewide.

I appreciate you giving me the time to testify today.

Oregon is facing a hunger crisis, and it is getting worse and worse.

Today, **1 in 6 children** in Oregon don't have enough to eat. **1 in 6!**

When I was the Director of Constituent Services for Congressman Blumenauer, I saw the impacts of the hunger crisis firsthand, especially in the immigrant community. As part of my job, I assisted many immigrant and refugee families during their resettlement. Despite paying millions in annual taxes in Oregon, immigrant

Oregonians are twice as likely to face hunger and poverty in our state and thousands of these Oregonians are excluded from vital food assistance due to their immigration status. These barriers don't just harm immigrant families– they weaken Oregon's economy, destabilize communities, and strain critical systems.

These neighbors, family members, coworkers, and friends contribute to our communities and Oregon's economy and help make Oregon a wonderful place to live. Access to food should not depend on where we were born.

I **strongly** believe that during these divisive times, we **must** acknowledge our shared humanity with compassion and empathy. Feeding children should **not** be a divisive issue. Children don't choose where they are born and they don't elect our politicians. We must not allow Oregon's innocent children to become the collateral damage of partisan politics. Regardless of your view on immigration, no one deserves to go hungry, especially children.

Knowing how hard everyone on this committee works day in and day out to make Oregon a better place to live, I can't imagine that any of you wouldn't agree that access to food is the minimum of what we can and should guarantee for each and every child in our state.

I sincerely appreciate the work you all do to support Oregonians and strongly urge you to help make Oregon a state where anyone who needs food can get it by supporting SB 611. Thank you.

Ali King

Policy and Advocacy Director

[Our Children Oregon](#)