

Submitter: Beth Outterson  
On Behalf Of: Leaven Land and Housing  
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

Like so many others in my faith community, I contribute food regularly to local food pantries (Northeast Emergency Food Program and Mainspring). Thousands of tons of food are contributed each month to volunteer programs such as this in order to meet the increasing need in our communities. And although we do our part, we cannot meet the growing need. We know that federal funding for nutrition assistance will likely decrease. At the state level we now have a choice whether to allow access to nutrition programs for those who need it most, and regardless of immigration status.

It sounds so obvious to say that food is a right, not a privilege, for all people. Immigration status should never ever weigh into a decision about food. SB611 will allow food assistance programs for low income Oregonians regardless of their immigration status. I strongly encourage you to consider passing SB611 to establish the Food for All Oregonians Program in DHS that would benefit all people. with respect, fairness and dignity.