

Dear Oregon Lawmakers,

I am Paul Makoko, a retired professional and current owner of a home care facility. For years, I have worked closely with immigrant workers and served as an interpreter for East African immigrant and refugee families. I have seen firsthand how the lack of access to food assistance devastates families who already face so many challenges, language barriers, cultural shifts, economic hardship.

Many of the home care workers I know are incredibly hardworking, yet still unable to feed their families adequately. I have translated heartbreaking stories of mothers skipping meals, of seniors with no strength to walk due to malnutrition, of children crying from hunger while their parents work multiple jobs. These are not lazy people. These are people who give everything to this state and receive so little in return.

Passing SB 611 would be a lifeline. It would restore dignity. It would show that Oregon values every hand that contributes to its prosperity, no matter where it was born. Please, make this right. I urge you to pass Food for All Oregonians and ensure our most vulnerable no longer suffer in the shadows. Thank you