

To Oregon Legislators,

My name is Nakinja. I live in Tillamook and am a proud mother of twelve children. I work two shifts just to try to make ends meet. I wake up before sunrise and come home long after dark, exhausted, yet still worried about whether there is enough food for my children. Often, there isn't.

I am an immigrant. I came here for a better future, but I live with constant anxiety; there is no rest when your children are hungry. My income goes straight to rent and basic bills. Food is something we have to stretch or skip. I know what it feels like to work hard and still feel powerless because your status denies you the help you need to feed your family.

SB 611 means hope. It means my children could go to school with full bellies and better chances. It means I could go to work without guilt and desperation. Please, I urge you to pass this bill. You hold the power to ease suffering for mothers like me who only want the best for their children. Let us feed our families. Let us live with dignity.