

Dear Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

My name is Amayah. I am a student and first-generation immigrant living in Beaverton. Growing up, I experienced hunger on a deeply personal level. There were nights when my stomach growled as I tried to complete my homework. Days when I had to pretend I wasn't hungry so my younger siblings could eat.

My parents, despite working so hard, were not eligible for food assistance due to their immigration status. It was a silent suffering that followed me to school and back home. Hunger is not just about the absence of food, it chips away at a child's confidence, focus, and hope.

I am speaking up now for other children who are still living in that reality. SB 611 is a chance to stop that cycle. It is a chance to say: no child in Oregon should go hungry because of where their parents were born. Please pass this bill and let students like me have the nutrition and support we need to succeed.