

Dear Oregon Legislators,

My name is Isaac Nziacharo, and I live in Portland. I own a home care facility and have spent years working with immigrant and refugee workers who provide essential services to our aging and disabled communities. These workers are the backbone of Oregon's caregiving workforce, yet too many of them are quietly suffering from food insecurity.

I've had employees confide in me that they often skip meals so their children can eat. Others rely on food pantries to supplement their groceries despite working full-time. Their struggle is not due to laziness, it is because they are locked out of support systems simply due to their immigration status.

SB 611 is a crucial step in fixing this injustice. When workers are nourished, they perform better, stay healthier, and can better support the people they care for. I urge you to pass SB 611 and affirm that no hardworking Oregonian should go hungry. We cannot thrive as a state when those providing essential care are themselves in need.