

My name is Ana Balongelwa, and I am a retired senior living in Clackamas. I live on a fixed and very limited income. I must carefully budget for rent, medication, and utilities—and there is often very little left for food.

As an immigrant, I do not qualify for most food assistance programs, even though I have worked hard and contributed to this community. I especially struggle to find culturally familiar and nutritious foods that are good for my health. This lack of access has made my senior years much harder than they should be.

SB 611 would provide a path toward dignity and health for people like me. Food is a basic need and a human right. Please vote yes on this bill and ensure that elders in our state are not left behind. We deserve to live our final years in peace, not in hunger.