

My name is Imani Njeri, and I live in Clackamas. I am a first-generation American and the child of immigrants. Growing up, I experienced hunger firsthand. I saw the difference between families who had access to food assistance and those like mine who were excluded due to immigration status.

I remember going to school hungry, struggling to focus in class, and watching my parents skip meals so my siblings and I could eat. That experience never leaves you. It shaped who I am and why I now advocate for immigrant youth and families facing similar challenges.

SB 611 is an opportunity to break that cycle. No child should be denied nourishment because of their parents' paperwork. I urge you to pass this bill and ensure that every Oregonian has the chance to grow up healthy, focused, and full. The future of our state depends on it.