

Date: 3/25/25

Testimony in support of bill SB611

Senate Committee on Human Services

Chair Sen. Gelser Blouin, Vice Chair Sen. Diane Linthicum, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cayle Tern, APANO Communities United Fund. I am writing in **support of Senate Bill 611**. As housing and other living expenses increase, more and more Oregonians are having a harder time addressing basic food needs. Food For All Oregonians will make food assistance available to all Oregonians. This bill will make sure that children do not have to go hungry.

Right now, we have a SNAP program that excludes people who do not have the right immigration status. That needs to change. I know first hand how SNAP can support families because my own family benefited from SNAP.


My family arrived as refugees. My parents did not speak English and struggled with finding employment. We were poor. We were poor but did not have to experience hunger because of SNAP. Not going hungry is an unfortunate circumstance that we did not have to experience because we were lucky in acquiring our immigration status.

Oregon has had a long history of embracing our immigrant communities. We have expanded access to health insurance, education, and other critical services. We know that these services help families become self-sufficient and independent.

We may not be able to end hunger around the world right now, but we can for families in Oregon. Everyone deserves help with food. We know that when we all have access to food, we're all better off. Kids do better in school, our families' health and well-being improves, and our economy thrives through the support of local businesses. This is true in every corner of Oregon—in rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. When all of our neighbors are getting the food that they need, all of Oregon thrives.

This is why I urge your yes vote on SB 611. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Cayle Tern, APANO