

Submitter: Darena Yee
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

My name is Darena Yee and I am a member of the Assistance League of Corvallis, a local chapter of the national volunteer group, National Assistance League. One of the priorities our local chapter works on each year is Operation School Bell which provides a fresh, new clothing wardrobe (a down jacket, jeans, teeshirts, gym clothes, underwear, socks, and personal toiletries) to any public school student who are referred through school personnel and social agencies. We offer this program because we believe a student having suitable clothing helps with their school attendance. Each item is selected for that student's size and age, and even with their favorite color choices.

The clothing size requests for these kids within the past few years alarm me because I am seeing young kindergarten children needing larger sizes more typical of an older child. Their heights are more typical for a kindergarten age child but their large girth sizes are way out of wack. It's heartbreaking, actually. I sense that the families of these kids are not eating healthily. Food prices have gotten so expensive, and healthy foods are out of reach for low income families. Cheap food is unhealthy carbohydrate-rich foods but it does fill the hunger pangs, and it is cheaper than fresh foods. No parent should have to make the decision to feed their beloved child these cheap, unhealthy, highly processed foods because they cannot afford to feed their child a more healthy diet that SNAP can help provide. I urge you to support and vote YES on SB 611.

Thank you,
Darena Yee