



March 25, 2025

Dear Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and members of the committee,

<u>Oregon Worker Relief</u> is a statewide network of community-based organizations striving to solve the exclusionary impacts our community faces by providing support to immigrants and refugees in Oregon and building systems that support prosperity for all. We believe that by ensuring everyone has access to basic rights and protections, we build stronger communities where all Oregon families can thrive.

On behalf of Oregon Worker Relief, we strongly urge your support for <u>SB 611</u>. SB 611, modeled after the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), is a state-funded nutrition assistance program that will serve immigrant Oregonians ages 25 and younger and 55 and older, who are currently excluded from these benefits due to their immigration status.

Oregon has long recognized that we're stronger together, but safety net programs often exclude immigrant Oregonians, and critical programs that serve immigrant families are underfunded or leave dangerous gaps in coverage. Despite paying billions in annual taxes in Oregon, immigrant Oregonians are twice as likely to face hunger and poverty in our state. Thousands of immigrant and refugee Oregonians are excluded from vital food assistance due to their immigration status.

SB 611, also known as Food for All, ensures that immigration status no longer determines whether someone faces hunger and poverty in our communities. This bill would help struggling immigrants, refugees, and families across our state. These are our neighbors, our family, our friends, our students, the children our kids play with, our coworkers and their loved ones—the people who help make Oregon a beautiful place to live.

Oregon lawmakers can help end child hunger in Oregon. This bill is a key step to making that happen. SB 611 will provide stability and food security to immigrant Oregonians. Oregon Worker Relief strongly urges your support of SB 611.

Martha Sonato Chair, Executive Committee Oregon Worker Relief