

Submitter: Caitlin Seyfried  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

My name is Caitlin Seyfried, I live here in Astoria and have worked in farming and community food systems in Oregon for the past 6 years. I am testifying in support of SB 611, Food for All Oregonians because access to food is a human right, and should NOT depend on where you were born.

Through positions at a food bank and local foods nonprofit, I have worked firsthand to help Oregonians access good food with dignity. Food insecure youth and seniors in particular face many barriers to access food supports. Add to that a language barrier and fear that your immigration status will be questioned, fear that you will be detained on a suspicion, fear that you are putting your family at risk, and that vulnerability multiplies. Add to that an ongoing brutal anti-immigrant regime on the federal level and you further exacerbate that vulnerability.

As a farmhand on a beautiful small farm here in Astoria, I am familiar with the kind of physical labor that goes into producing fresh food. The majority of the food we eat is produced through an exploitative system that RELIES on migrant labor, which has brought people to Oregon for decades. And as we all know, immigrants pay taxes that support federal and state programs, like SNAP.

Food for All Oregonians is a step in the direction of recognizing humanity and working for the people. Again this bill supports our young people and seniors who are worthy of access to food with dignity, and welcome here. I urge you to vote yes and support SB 611. Thank you for your time.