

Submitter: Samuel Murillo
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1581

My name is Samuel Murillo, and I am writing in strong support of SB 1581, which ensures that all students have access to free, nutritious meals at school.

As a community organizer and advocate for working families in the Columbia Gorge, I see firsthand how food insecurity affects our children. No child should have to try to learn while distracted by hunger. When students come to school without proper meals, it impacts their energy, their focus, their behavior, and their confidence. Hunger makes it harder to succeed.

School should be a place where every child feels supported, valued, and ready to learn. Providing meals for all students removes stigma, ensures equity, and guarantees that every child—regardless of family income—has what they need to thrive in the classroom.

For many families, especially those working hard to make ends meet, rising food and housing costs have created real challenges. SB 1581 helps ease that burden while investing directly in our children's futures. When students are well-fed, they perform better academically, have better attendance, and are more engaged in school.

This bill is not just about food—it is about dignity, opportunity, and long-term success. It reflects our shared values of caring for our neighbors and making sure no child is left behind.

I urge you to support SB 1581 and stand with Oregon's students and families. Our children deserve full stomachs, focused minds, and equal opportunities to learn and succeed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Samuel Murillo