

 **CONSOLIDATED OREGON
INDIVISIBLE NETWORK**

www.coinoregon.org

coinlegteam@gmail.com

To: Senate Committee on Education
From: Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN)
Re: SUPPORT for SB 1581
Date: February 6, 2026

Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

The Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) supports SB 1581 and we strongly urge you to pass this important legislation to ensure that Oregon's school children don't go hungry, giving them the best chance for success.

COIN is a coalition of over 75 local Indivisible groups throughout Oregon that cooperate and amplify their joint efforts to advance important federal and state legislation and engage with elected officials to promote progressive causes for the benefit of all Oregonians.

As a public school teacher for 32 years, I taught during years when free meals weren't available to all and I witnessed the stigma associated with those who got a "free lunch." Many others went hungry either because their parents didn't complete the necessary paperwork or the children didn't want to be a "free lunch kid."

Later in my career, my district adopted free breakfast and free lunch for all children and what a change for the better! Some kids still brought their own meals from home, but the stigma of a free meal was gone and no one went hungry during the school day.

But there are still school districts in Oregon that don't provide free meals for all. Now, more than ever, we need to fix that. In Oregon, every child deserves to be fed, and if their families are struggling at home to do it, then our communities and our state government must step in.

Research and lived experience consistently show that when students have reliable access to nutritious food, schools see improved attendance, fewer disciplinary incidents, and stronger academic outcomes. SB 1581 is a smart investment in Oregon's students and our future.

Please vote YES on SB 1581 and let's make Oregon a Hunger-Free Schools state!

Respectfully,

Deborah Ferrer, The Dalles

On behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN)