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HB 2881 and HB 3398

Oregon Hunger Response Fund and Hunger Task Force Bills
House Human Services and Housing Committee
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Madam Chair, members Committee, for the record, my name is John Mullin, and I am a Legislative Advocate for the Oregon Law Center. As I will be testifying in Ways and Means this morning, I will miss most of the hunger presentation, with the compelling statistics, and the expert witnesses.

But I will not miss the point and the need for these bills. We know we can do better in Oregon. Our colleagues at the Oregon Food Bank and Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon are focused on the needs Oregonians have for food, and this has practical and immediate impact, such as the Oregon Hunger Response fund in HB 2881, and the potential for solutions to hunger through the work of the Hunger Task Force in HB 3398.

In this session, with all of the important discussions and bills aimed at addressing the housing crisis, it is also the case that we need to pay attention to hunger. These two bills are small investments with a big impact on current needs and planning for the future. It has often been noted that solving the hunger problem is within our reach, but unless we have the needed investments, we are destined to fall short.

The Oregon Law Center's mission is to achieve justice for the low-income communities of Oregon. With our mission in mind, we enthusiastically support these important bills.

Thank you for your consideration.
