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March 11, 2019

Sen. Betsy Johnson; Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward; Rep. Dan Rayfield,

I am a first generation American, a son of refugees from Nazi Germany. For as long as I can remember my mother recalled the challenges of food rationing which she experienced. As one of those young people shipped from Germany to England via Kindertransport prior to WWII, she often recalled scrounging through the household garbage to retrieve bread crusts that kitchen help were simply throwing away. It is in part because of these memories past down to me about lingering recollections of hunger that I serve on the Oregon Food Bank. I am committed to do my part to see to it that no one in our community, in our state and country should experience the pangs of hunger. I am convinced that as a state legislator you agree.

In addition as a rabbi I view our Biblical tradition mandating that society must make special provision for "the widow, the orphan, the stranger and the poor", those along with other most vulnerable and powerless.

The Oregon Foodbank Network does all in its power to see to it that we can meet any and every potential crisis. We recognize a series of glaring uncertainties from the last two years as we confront the two year budgeting cycle before us:

- a. Federal volatility that impacts the SNAP program, which have included eligibility limitations and disruptions due to the shutdown. During the recent shutdown SNAP funds were distributed earlier than usual, resulting in recipients running out of food before the end of the month, increasing unanticipated Oregon Food Bank needs.
- b. Increased USDA food purchases due to the US/China trade-tariff impasse which have created operational costs for storage and distribution which were unplanned.
- c. The real possibility of another recession which as in the past increases demand on food banks when we are still distributing food at a higher level than prior to the 2007-09 recession.

Therefore we turn to you requesting that the state budget make:

- a. \$4.2 million the new base budget for the Oregon Hunger Response Fund/DHS (governor's budget recommended \$2.9 million)
- b. \$1.2 million for the Farm Direct Nutrition WIC/OHA (governor's budget recommended \$6,025)
- c. \$287K for the Farm Direct Nutrition Seniors/OHA(governor's budget \$262,598)

for the 2019-21 biennium by rolling up 2017-19 one-time funds.

We recognize that budgetary choices are difficult. Many worthwhile causes express their legitimate needs and requests. However we must all recognize that filling bellies with nutritious food takes precedent. A hungry student cannot learn. A provider who cannot put food on the table for his/her family may engage in unacceptable acts. We have a responsibility to the elderly, the infirm and the disabled.

There is no excuse why anyone in our society should go hungry.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Daniel Isaak

**From:** [Daniel Isaak](#)  
**To:** [JWMHS Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Budgetary Requests  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 8:42:09 PM

ANTI-HUNGER PROGRAMS	STATE AGENCY	2017-19 ADOPTED		2019-21 BASE BUDGET		
		Base Budget	One-time	Governor's Recommended	REQUESTED w/ one-time funds	BILL NUMBER
OR Hunger Response Fund	DHS	\$2.9 million	\$1.3 million	\$2.9 million	\$4.2 million	HB 5026
Farm Direct Nutrition: Low-Income Seniors	OHA	\$86,888	\$200,000	\$6,025	\$286,888	SB 5525
Farm Direct Nutrition: WIC Families	OHA	\$227,421	\$1,000,000	\$262,598	\$1,227,421	SB 5525

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**From:** JWMHS Exhibits [mailto:JWMHS.Exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 3:59 PM  
**To:** Daniel Isaak  
**Subject:** RE: Budgetary Requests

Please provide the **bill number** for which you want to submit testimony.

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**From:** Daniel Isaak <disaak@nevehshalom.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 3:31 PM  
**To:** JWMHS Exhibits <JWMHS.Exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Budgetary Requests

To: Committee Staff

Please accept this letter so that it can be submitted for the record. Thank you.

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Rabbi Daniel Isaak

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**From:** Daniel Isaak  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019 3:08 PM  
**To:** 'Sen.BetsyJohnson@oregonlegislature.gov'; 'Sen.ElizabethSteinerHayward@oregonlegislature.gov'; 'rep.danrayfield@oregonlegislature.gov'  
**Cc:** 'rep.robnosse@state.or.us'; 'sen.dallasheard@oregonlegislature.gov'; 'Sen.RobWagner@oregonlegislature.gov'; 'rep.cedrichayden@oregonlegislature.gov'; 'Rep.AndreaSalinas@oregonlegislature.gov'; 'Rep.SheriSchouten@oregonlegislature.gov'; 'rep.duanestark@oregonlegislature.gov'; 'Rep.TinaKotek@oregonlegislature.gov'; 'sen.petercourtney@oregonlegislature.gov'  
**Subject:** Budgetary Requests

To: Co-Chairs of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services  
Members of the Committee

From: Rabbi Daniel Isaak, member of the Oregon Food Bank Board of Directors

Re: Budget Requests to further Efforts by the Oregon Food Bank to End Hunger in Oregon

Please consider the attached letter in your budgetary deliberations.