

TO: House Committee on Human Services  
FROM: Susannah Morgan, CEO, Oregon Food Bank  
RE: Support for HB 2833 and 2834  
DATE: March 3, 2021



Chair Williams and members of the committee,

Oregon Food Bank's mission is to eliminate hunger and its root causes.

Prior to the pandemic, 1 in 11 Oregonians were food insecure. Today, nearly 1 in 5 people in our communities face hunger — a dramatic increase. And the public health and economic impacts of the pandemic have fallen hardest on people who have faced systemic inequities for generations: communities of color, immigrants and refugees, single parents and caregivers, and our trans and gender non-conforming neighbors.

We believe it is critical that people and communities most directly impacted by food insecurity and hunger have agency in decision-making that impacts hunger and poverty. **That's why as a long-time member of the Oregon Hunger Task Force, Oregon Food Bank supports HB 2833 and HB 2834** to make necessary updates to the membership of the Oregon Hunger Task Force so the strategies and recommendations from the task force result in more equitable outcomes.

- **HB 2834** would modify membership guidelines so that for the first time the Task Force will be made up of  $\frac{1}{3}$  individuals representative of communities most impacted by food insecurity, along with  $\frac{1}{3}$  key stakeholder groups, and  $\frac{1}{3}$  legislators & state agencies.
- **HB 2833** allocates \$150,000 to increase the capacity and equitable impact of the work of the Hunger Task Force to support the state's policies and responses to hunger.

These updates are necessary to ensure people and communities with lived experience of food insecurity not only have a place at the table, but have meaningful influence in crafting solutions and holding institutions accountable to our communities. **People who experience hunger are experts of their own lives**, and ensuring that strategies to hunger are driven by the lived expertise of Oregonians is an important step in reaching better outcomes.

**We urge the committee's support for HB 2833 and HB 2834.** We have the opportunity to rebuild and emerge stronger so that we can end hunger for good in our communities. This is our moment to embrace our shared values, care for each other and take bold action in support of *all* Oregonians.

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