

TO: House Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery
FROM: Matt Newell-Ching, Public Policy Manager
RE: Support for HB 2834 A
DATE: May 11, 2021



Chair Gelser, Vice-Chair Anderson, 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. In 2020, 1 in 4 people in our communities faced 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 2834 A** 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 A modifies 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.

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.**

Oregon Food Bank also requests support for the companion bill, HB 2833, which 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.

We urge the committee's support for HB 2834 A. 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.

Oregon Food Bank
Headquarters /
Metro Services
7900 NE 33rd Drive
Portland, OR 97211
503-282-0555

Oregon Food Bank
Washington County
Services
1870 NW 173rd Ave
Beaverton, OR 97006
503-439-6510

Oregon Food Bank
Tillamook County
Services
PO Box 1344
Tillamook, OR 97141
503-842-3154

Oregon Food Bank
Southeast Oregon
Services
773 S Oregon Street
Ontario, OR 97914
541-889-9206

Columbia Gorge
Food Bank
3610 Crates Way
The Dalles, OR 97058
541-370-2333

