

TO: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation
FROM: Danita Harris
RE: Support for SB 755
DATE: 3/1/21



Dear Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation,

I'm writing on behalf of the Oregon Food Bank in support of SB 755. Oregon Food Bank's mission is to eliminate hunger and its root causes. We pursue this goal in two key ways: we foster community connections to help people access nutritious food today; and we build community power to dismantle systems and policies that drive hunger and poverty. Our Network of 21 regional food banks and 1,400 partner agencies continue to work tirelessly to ensure that Oregonians are able to put food on the table in the wake of this pandemic.

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.

Oregon's addiction and overdose crisis disproportionately impact communities that experience multiple identities of oppression. **SB 755 will increase access to low-barrier, culturally-responsive treatment, recovery, housing and harm-reduction services to those who need and want it.** This bill is an urgently-needed step to help our communities heal.

We have an opportunity to rebuild and emerge stronger so that we can end hunger for good in our communities. Last November Oregonians passed Ballot Measure 110 by a 17 point margin. Voters recognized the tremendous need to shift to a health-based approach to addiction and increase access to addiction recovery services in our state. SB 755 makes services more accessible throughout Oregon. Please support SB 755; in doing so you will save lives.

This is our moment to embrace our shared values, care for each other and take bold action in support of *all* Oregonians.

Thank you,

Danita Harris,
Oregon Food Bank

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

