

**DEB PATTERSON
STATE SENATOR/SENADORA ESTATAL
DISTRICT/DISTRITO 10**



OREGON STATE SENATE/SENADO DEL ESTADO DE OREGON

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Deb Patterson, State Senator from District 10, representing South Salem, West Salem, Monmouth and Independence. I am writing to add my support to SB 419, which would appropriate funds to the Oregon Hunger Task Force through the Oregon Department of Health and Human Services.

Hunger and food insecurity remains a pervasive problem in Oregon. In 2021, an OSU survey showed that roughly 1 in 10 people experienced food insecurity that year. Food insecurity is not distributed equally. Black, Hispanic and Latino, and Indigenous households are far more likely to experience hunger, and this inequality is present in Oregon.

Though Oregon has made great strides since the day when it was found to be one of the most food insecure states in the nation, there is still more work to do. 10 percent of Oregonians is simply too many—too many seniors, people with disabilities, and working families with children who are not getting the nutrients they need, and more to the point, not being able to meet their basic needs.

It has been theorized that the expected pandemic-era rise in hunger did not fully materialize *because* resources and services for those experiencing hunger and financial hardship were expanded. Now is not the time to be pulling back on the resources we offer those experiencing food insecurity. This legislation would allow the Hunger Task Force to fully take advantage of its expansion by allocating it the resources necessary to serve more Oregonians.

I urge your aye vote.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deb Patterson".

Deb Patterson