

My name is Donna Parks and I live in Tillamook, Oregon. I'm speaking with you today to ask for your support on Senate Bill 610, Food for All Oregonians. This bill ensures all of our neighbors, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy. I have been working with food banking for 16 years here in Tillamook, OR. Not only are we a food pantry but we also have a mini-thrift store, we have showers, laundry, a hospitality center, a safe park parking lot, and 6 micro-shelters in the backyard managed by CARE, Inc. We serve a wide range of people's needs and there is so much more that is needed.

In the 70s I spent 4 and half years homeless by choice. Back then there were no pantries and the USDA foods were very far away. and there was no network of food access points. Today these food access points are so important and the Oregon Food Bank does a great job of supporting those access points. My personal experience makes me passionate about people having access to food regardless of any status. I believe that everyone deserves food and that food is a human right no matter what.

Our pantry serves approximately 37% multicultural clients and I am so glad that at our pantry all we ask for is someone's name and how many people are in their family in order for them to access food. This bill would make it a lot easier for so many of our clients to not be afraid or embarrassed to come for food.

Please seriously consider the positive impact that this could have on thousands and thousands of people in Oregon. I hope you will vote yes on SB 610.

Donna Parks