

Testomony for SB 610

The COFA Alliance Nation Network (CANN) is in support of SB 610 as we firmly believe that no one choosing Oregon to be their home should go hungry. We know that hunger leads to malnutrition, which can then lead to serious medical issues--issues that will lead to vastly greater costs and suffering later in a person's life. This wouldn't have been the case had they been able to have basic sustenance. In addition, the suffering goes beyond the immigrant parent and extends to their children. School-funded food programs do not feed the entire family and are unavailable when school is not in session such as weekends, vacations, and summers. The US is pretty good in providing emergency aide, especially food and water, to the people of other nations when they are besieged by war or natural disasters. SB 610 says that hunger anywhere is unacceptable and further says that Oregon has the opportunity to establish a model for the nation. CANN agrees with that premise and urges and I vote.

CANN also has a COFA SNAP bill (SB 856) it is bringing before the legislature which we hope makes it through the process in tandem with SB 610. We do not want SB 856 to be viewed as competition to SB 610. CANN has and will continue to lobby for COFA justice which is consistent with the treaty (Compact of Free Association) the US has with the COFA nations. Both bills can serve to make Oregon a model for other states' and the nation.

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