

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

My name is Tabitha Pitzer and I live in West Linn (HD 37, SD 19) and I am writing in **support of Senate Bill 610**. SB 610, Food for All Oregonians, would ensure all neighbors, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy.

As an immigrant, this bill is of great importance to me. At the age of five, my family of five moved to the United States with 10 suitcases, \$700, and a dream that my siblings and I would be able to earn college degrees. My mother was a nurse the sole provider for our family until my father could find work. During times of food insecurity, it was nearly impossible to focus on school, acclimating to a new country felt paralyzing, and mourning the loss of connection to all my other family members was made that much more challenging. I can only imagine the pain, stress, and exhaustion my parents felt trying to provide for three hungry children. No child or family should ever have to experience the physical or emotional toll of involuntary hunger—regardless of their documentation status.

Food for All Oregonians will create a state-funded program that eliminates exclusions to SNAP and make applying for assistance more welcoming. Ensuring everyone has access to food is an essential form of preventative care for future suffering and potential health concerns. We know that when we all have access to food, we're all better off. Kids do better in school, our families' health and well-being improves, and our economy thrives through the support of local businesses. This is true in every corner of Oregon—in rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. When all of our neighbors are getting the food that they need, all of Oregon thrives.

This is why I am urging your yes vote on SB 610. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Tabitha Pitzer