

Submitter: Laura Slinger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB610

Iakwe aelop,

My name is Laura Slinger and I am currently a senior at Eastern Oregon University. I believe that this measure will shed light on many of the food and financial concerns that COFA students have. In order to attend Eastern Oregon University, I relocated to Oregon in 2018. I was a freshman at the time and residing in the residence halls. Due to school meal arrangements, food was not a major concern during this time. When I left the dorms and began living off-campus, that's when I really started to battle with hunger, expenses, and rent. Some students are required to work while they are in school, which is challenging because they must still pay for tuition. While attending school, some pupils skip meals or go hungry. How can students continue their schooling while they are facing hunger? An important factor in a student's success in college is food. Living a healthy life today and in the future requires good diet. Even if weight isn't an issue, generally bad eating habits are linked to potential health problems like heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, osteoporosis, iron deficiency anemia, and some malignancies. The lack of food could lead to less brain activity and affect a student's ability to study, to do homework, and exams. Food stamps will take a heavy burden off of COFA students' shoulders since they will be able to apply for food assistance and shift their attention away from obtaining food and into their education.