

Submitter: Jean Malolo

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB610

As an individual who travelled from a small country to the state of Oregon to pursue my educational endeavors, adapting and adjusting to life in the United States has proven difficult for me. I am a mother and a student who has also had to maintain employment in order to pay for tuition and make ends meet. I am fortunate to be a part of a student community that help each other in informing each other when they find resources such as food box drives and such; however, I can not imagine how much more difficult it would be for me had I not been a part of this community.

Every pay check I receive is met with the demands of tuition fees, rent, and bills that I have to pay in order to survive and support my family. There are times I have to choose between keeping the lights on or having healthy, nutritious meals that will last until the next pay check. There are times when I would have to choose between gas in order to get me to work or a fresh source of protein or other healthy meal choice.

This State Bill could help a lot of COFA college students in my situation or just any Oregon resident that faces similar or worse challenges in their daily life. It would definitely help in relieving residents of a necessary and regular expense and it would improve our quality of life. The existence and approval of SB 610 could help residents keep their lights on, save money for a better future, and have a healthy, nutritious diet and not worry about prioritizing any other bill or necessary expense over food.