

2/27/2023

SUBJECT: Yes to SB 610

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

My name is Cristina and I live in Washington County. I am writing in **support of Senate Bill 610, Food For All Oregonians** which would ensure all of our neighbors, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy.

In my experience as a social service provider in Washington County I can say that the number one resource that I have had to provide to families is food resources. This is true especially with immigrant families and people who are recent arrivals to the county. I have been working with asylum seekers for five years and many of them express that food, housing and work are top priorities for them. I have also seen that the topic of Access to Food is always a top priority for immigrant families who attend many of the listening sessions I have coordinated in Washington County.

Through my work I have also seen how many people of color and immigrant communities continue to suffer the consequences of the COVID 19 Pandemic. Many people who call community Navigators for the Oregon Worker Relief Fund often ask for food resources that they can be eligible to. This clearly shows a need to expand food access to everyone in the community.

Food For All Oregonians will create a state-funded program that eliminates exclusions to SNAP and make applying for assistance more welcoming.

- Food For All Oregonians makes food assistance available to all Oregonians who are currently excluded due to immigration status.
- It provides families with money for groceries that matches federal SNAP food assistance benefits.

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,

Cristina