

Date: 2/27/2023

To: Senate Committee on Human Services

RE: Support SB 610

Dear Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and members of the Committee,

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

I am here in support of addressing a large part of our community, 62,000 Oregonians to be exact, that have been excluded from federal programs like food stamps, also known as SNAP. This food crisis affects us all but more importantly those who hold a TPS or DACA status in the United States and therefore leaves them in limbo when accessing services. Having extra help would improve their life situation especially when it is getting more expensive to live in this country. This legislative proposal would be of great benefit to them and to the community at large. I give my testimony of support because I live with a young daca recipient and I know that on days when it rains or snows they lose income from work. Which puts them in a difficult situation because if there is no income where does this person get support for food? I know that this situation of this young man is not unique; there are many families who have similar experiences.

Food for All Oregonians will create a state-funded program that eliminates exclusions to SNAP and make applying for assistance more welcoming. It will also make food assistance available to all Oregonians who are currently excluded due to immigration status. And lastly, it will provide families with money for groceries that matches federal SNAP food assistance benefits.

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.

It is necessary to give a solution to this issue and we reiterate our proposal to ask for your support by voting yes on this proposal SB 610, Food for All Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Brandon Valdez