

Date: 2/27/2023

To: Senate Committee on Human Services

RE: Support SB (Senate Bill) 610

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

My name is Josue Osuna and I live in Washington County. I am writing to you respectfully to ask for your support with SB 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.

This legislative proposal would benefit many of us who to this date have not been included in federal programs like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). I am a Dreamer and unfortunately there is no possibility of getting access to food stamps with the current federal policies in place. A problem many other dreamers similarly face in the United States. And while we hold the status to be able to work in the United States the current living situation continues to become a problem making it more difficult to access nutritious and culturally familiar food. We too experience the increase in prices and this generates instability. For example, when you go to the store with a budget and when you arrive it is not enough. Therefore having extra help by having access to food assistance would be very beneficial for someone like me who has DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

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.

We need something to be done for our community and the best way is that we work hand in hand to achieve it and it will only start by you supporting this proposal with a Yes vote to SB 610, Food for All Oregonians.

Respectfully,

Josue Osuna