

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 Sandra and I live in District 24. 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.

We all deserve to eat more nutritious and be treated equally with our nutrition regardless of our race, color, or immigration status. Hunger has affected our community for far too long due to not having access to federal programs like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). Other people may be receiving food assistance, but over 62,000 people living in Oregon do not receive any support for it.

This legislative proposal on a personal note would help me as a mother of 3 US-born children in Oregon to eat more nutritiously, such as more fruit and vegetables. Unfortunately, my income is not enough for me to buy sufficient nutritious foods. In the last few years, the price of food, rent, and other items has gone up. As someone who falls under the category of low-income, my income is not enough for all my necessities. My older son has asthma, and I must take care of his health and everything he eats. By eating more nutritiously, like intaking more fruit and vegetables, he would receive better nutrition and would live healthier.

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.

For this reason, I am in support of Food for All Oregonians, and I ask for your support by voting yes so that everyone has access to food.

Thank you,

Sandra