

Date: 2/27/2023

To: Senate Committee on Human Services

RE: Support SB 610

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

My name is Gloria Alvarez and I live in the city of Cornelius. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 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.

Although there have been significant investments, the state's food assistance policies leave a huge number of Oregonians behind because of their immigration status or other arbitrary factors. Among those who cannot access SNAP are Dreamers, people with Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and undocumented immigrants who are in the process of applying for asylum.

I am a food pantry volunteer for the Oregon Food Bank. I have seen how many families in my community rely on the donations we receive to feed their families. These families don't come occasionally just because they had unforeseen expenses. These families come weekly to supplement their pantry with donations and be able to feed their families for the entire month.

Fortunately, we have the opportunity to pass the Food for All Oregonians Initiative (SB 610) which will allow access to food assistance to all Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, and provide families with money to purchase groceries that will match SNAP food assistance benefits.

When all Oregon families can access food, all our children will do better in school, improve their mental health and promote family well-being. I have seen in my community how families sacrifice food to meet other non-negotiable needs like rent. We rely on what food banks can give us, which doesn't always help people with chronic illnesses like diabetes or high blood pressure, which are more common in communities of color.

I ask for your support of this important bill and show your support by voting yes on SB 610, Food for All Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Gloria Alvarez