

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 Ma de la luz and I live in Washington County. 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.

I am writing to you today because there is an issue that concerns me and my community that people without exception should have a fundamental right of access to food in Oregon. More than 62,000 Oregonians receive no help from food assistance programs in Oregon. Food is a basic resource that has not been prioritized. Oregon would be the first state to implement food for all. This bill ends the exclusion of people from the right to food regardless of race, color, or sex.

In Oregon, all people do not have access to food because people must be residents or citizens of Oregon to be eligible for food. In Oregon, important steps must be taken to expand access to public health services and ensure that their rights are met, but food is a basic resource that has not been prioritized.

Passing this bill will positively affect the most vulnerable and all of Oregon. We cannot let up on our work to ensure that all communities have food assistance, especially immigrants, refugee communities, and people of color who experience food insecurity two to three times more than white Oregonians.

We believe that everyone in our community and living in this country has the fundamental right to access food. We believe in the importance and urgency of the Food for All Oregonians campaign and the impact it will have.

Thank you for the chance to share my testimony supporting SB 610, Food for All Oregonians. I respectfully ask for your yes vote to support this legislative proposal.

Thank you,

Ma de la luz