

2-28-2023

My name is David De La Torre, I am the Healthy Climate Program Director at Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility. Guided by the values and expertise of healthcare and public health, OPSR works to protect human life from the gravest threats to health and survival. We are an organization of over 2,400 health professionals and public health advocates statewide working collaboratively with community partners to educate and advocate for societal and policy change that protects human health. We seek a healthy, just, and peaceful world for present and future generations.

**I am writing on behalf of Oregon PSR to express our support for SB 610 - Food for All Oregonians.** This important legislation is a matter of public health, justice, and climate resilience. We understand that food insecurity and access to healthy foods are in fact social determinants of health as adults and children face a variety of negative health outcomes as a result of food insecurity. (1) Food assistance programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), address barriers to accessing healthy foods and improving health outcomes.

Currently, there are tens of thousands of Oregonians who continue to be excluded from the SNAP and other vital support for our families. This includes workers who are essential to sustaining food production, childcare, healthcare institutions and other critical services throughout the state. Immigrants, refugees and Compact of Free Association (COFA) community members, in particular, have long faced higher rates of hunger and poverty in Oregon.

It is long overdue that we lift exclusions from SNAP based on immigration status and invest in the health and future of all people. SB 610 is an important step towards those goals; it increases resilience through food access for families who are disproportionately impacted by disasters exacerbated by climate change such as wildfires, heat waves, and earthquakes. Because when the next disaster or pandemic comes, we need communities to know that they can access food assistance programs with confidence and trust.

As someone who grew up in an immigrant community, I also understand that there are many barriers that people face when considering much needed help and services, including real and imagined fears of discrimination and/or deportation. I am therefore also excited about this legislation taking steps towards building trust through culturally responsive and community driven approaches.

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

The US affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize

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# OREGON PSR

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

With this, Oregon PSR urges your “yes” vote on SB 610. Access to healthy food is a human right and a matter of public health and resilience.

Thank you for your time.



David De La Torre  
Healthy Climate Program Director  
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**Citation:**

1. Burke, M. P., Martini, L. H., Çayır, E., Hartline-Grafton, H. L., & Meade, R. L. (2016). Severity of household food insecurity is positively associated with mental disorders among children and adolescents in the United States. *The Journal of nutrition*, 146(10), 2019-2026; Cook, J. T., & Frank, D. A. (2008). Food security, poverty, and human development in the United States. *Annals of the new York Academy of Sciences*, 1136(1), 193-209.

