



To: Senate Committee on Human Services
RE: Support of Food for All Oregonians, SB 610

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 610. My name is Sol Mora and I am the Advocacy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color, an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations dedicated to cross-cultural collective action for racial justice.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we've seen Oregon's families struggle financially to make ends meet and afford basic necessities like food, with a disproportionate rate of immigrant and refugee communities being impacted. For Black, Indigenous, Latine, and Pacific Islander households, these challenges existed long before the pandemic because they had less access to higher paying jobs and wealth-building opportunities, and were only exacerbated by the pandemic's economic crisis. At a time when hunger and poverty continue to severely strain immigrant, refugee, and Compact of Free Association (COFA) communities, investing in programs that can directly provide food assistance to those most in need is crucial.

While Oregon has made important progress to increase access to healthcare and other basic services for immigrant, refugee, and COFA communities, more work needs to be done to ensure that access to food is prioritized. Currently, many Oregonians are excluded from federal nutrition programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) also known as "food stamps" solely based on their immigration status.

SB 610 will help break down barriers related to immigration status, by establishing the Food for All Oregonians Program, and ensuring that all Oregon residents who would otherwise qualify for SNAP can access this assistance. Food assistance is a cornerstone in helping individuals lead healthy and stable lives, attain education and employment, and be an active part of their community.

As an organization that strives to address institutional racism and economic disparities within our local and state systems and create viable pathways for communities of color, immigrants, and refugees to obtain self-determination, justice, and access to opportunities, we ask that you advance SB 610 to ensure Oregonians from every part of our state have access to the food they need to thrive. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.

Thank you,
Sol Mora (she/her)
Advocacy Director