



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

On behalf of EUVALCREE, I am writing to express **support for Senate Bill 610**, Food For All Oregonians which would ensure all of our neighbors, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy.

Hunger was a crisis in our communities well before the pandemic, and the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 have fallen hardest on newly arrived Oregonians. Immigrants, refugees and Compact of Free Association (COFA) community members, in particular, have long faced higher rates of hunger and poverty in Oregon. There are countless of underserved communities that face food access inequities. EUVALCREE has made a commitment to these communities recognizing that food access is one of many obstacles that they encounter daily. Food access is a fundamental and basic human need. At EUVALCREE, we believe and defend the right for all to have access to food security, regardless of race or immigration status.

EUVALCREE's and Rural Oregon's diverse community will benefit immensely from SB 610. Living in a small, rural community places us at a higher disadvantage for food access, with already limited resources. Food for All Oregonians will create a state-funded program that eliminates exclusions to SNAP and make applying for assistance more welcoming. This bill will ensure everyone is aware of this vital support through community navigation and outreach, improved language access and more. It will also build on successful, community-driven navigator models to ensure trust and community safety. No child, or human, should ever be left hungry.

At EUVALCREE, we know that when we all have access to food, we're all better off. SB 610 will allow kids to do better in school, our families' health and well-being improves, and our economy thrives through the support of local businesses. This will be 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.

This is why we urge your yes vote on SB 610. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Yesenia Hernandez". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Yesenia Hernandez
EUVALCREE