

Good evening Chairs Steiner and Sanchez; Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg and Smith; Members of the Committee: My name is Blanca Rodriguez. I live in Ontario Oregon and I support Food For All Oregonians, SB 610. I believe food is a human right for all, especially poor undocumented immigrants who live and work in Oregon. Even though they work their earnings are very low and unreliable.

I volunteered at a local food bank and when a young mother and her small children walked in to obtain food. She was unable to understand the instructions given to her in English to sign in for services once a month. After I translated for her, she seemed more relaxed. She was given a bag of groceries but had trouble carrying the bag along with her children so I gave her a ride home.

She shared that it was embarrassing to ask for food but their income was not enough to cover their rent, utilities, transportation needs. She didn't qualify for Food Stamps because her family was undocumented. She was happy with the bag of food and stated the children were going to enjoy eating the peanut butter. That they were getting tired of eating noodles and potatoes.

My husband is a regular volunteer at the food bank and what he observes is the same struggle over and over with families. Please support the Food For All Oregonians Campaign and SB 610. It's the right thing to do!

Sincerely,

Blanca Rodriguez