

Submitter: Cristina Marquez
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Chairs Steiner and Sanchez; Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith; Members of the Committee:

My name is Cristina Marquez and I live in Salem, Oregon. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 610, Food For All Oregonians which would ensure people have access to food, regardless of their immigration status. There are thousands of people who are currently excluded from food access programs simply because of where they were born. The Oregon legislature has an opportunity to right this wrong and ensure everyone in Oregon has access to the essential resources we need to thrive. During the pandemic as many as 1 in 5 Oregonians faced hunger. Rising costs of food and housing have kept these numbers historically high. The combined impact of the pandemic and the rising cost of living has fallen hardest on communities that have experienced disproportionate hunger and poverty for generations. It's particularly upsetting that farmworkers- people who harvest our foods experience some of the highest rates of poverty and hunger. My family benefited from food assistance programs growing up when my dad's income was not enough to make ends meet. Yet, many family members couldn't access those programs because of their immigration status.

Food is a human right. The pandemic showed us that direct support to individuals and families is the best way to keep hunger and poverty from worsening in our communities. Please support SB 610.