

Submitter: Donna Robinson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

SUBJECT: Yes on SB 610 BODY: Chairs Steiner and Sanchez; Vice Chairs Girod, Gombert and Smith; Members of the Committee: My name is Donna Robinson and I live in Salem and I am writing/speaking in support of 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. Add 1-3 personal sentences on why you support this bill. Hunger was a crisis in our communities 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. Just one example: Latinx and Pacific Islander Oregonians experienced hunger at twice the rate of white Oregonians pre-pandemic — and this gap has only widened as our communities continue to struggle with COVID's ongoing impact and the rising cost of living. Food for All Oregonians will create a state-funded program that eliminates exclusions to SNAP and make applying for assistance more welcoming. Include 2-4 other personal points in this paragraph. Here are some talking points to choose from if they resonate with you. Food For All Oregonians makes food assistance available to all Oregonians who are currently excluded due to immigration status It provides families with money for groceries that matches federal SNAP food assistance benefits Ensures everyone is aware of this vital support through community navigation and outreach, improved language access and more Will build on successful, community-driven navigator models to ensure trust and community safety We know that when we all have access to food, we're all better off. Kids do better in school, our families' health and well-being improve, and our economy thrives through the support of local businesses. This is 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 I am urging your yes vote on SB 610. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Donna Robinson I worked very hard when I was able. I paid my taxes. Now I'm a senior and disabled. The increase in my ssdi does not come close to covering the high prices now. Having extra ebt benefits during the pandemic was such a relief, one thing I didn't have to worry about. I ate healthy food, fresh fruit and vegetables and good meat. I cannot do that without the extra benefits. I'm back to processed foods which are so unhealthy but cheap. I am back to going to food banks. The closest one to me does not have a bus stop (I don't drive) so I walk half an hour with my grocery cart to get whatever food is being given away. It's humiliating to be standing around for an hour or more waiting to see what other people didn't want. I prefer to get what I want in a grocery store. I am asking to have my ebt benefits to fit the times we live in. There was funding during the pandemic, what's different now

except that prices are skyrocketing? Please help me and my neighbors, friends and family that are receiving ebt. Thank you