

Chairs Steiner and Sanchez and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mackenzie Aime and I live in Eugene. I am writing 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. From every corner of the state, we know we need this program.

This policy impacts over 62,000 Oregonians. Put another way, this exclusion affects the equivalent of almost all the residents of Wheeler, Sherman, Gilliam, Grant, Wallowa, Harney, Lake, Morrow and Baker counties. If a quarter of Oregon's counties were excluded from an essential program, the legislature would work to find a solution, because the people that reside in those counties are part of our communities. I am asking for that same action to support all members of our community no matter where they were born.

Discrimination based on place of birth and immigration status is part of a legacy of racism and white supremacy that has privileged the rights of some over others. It's part of a myth that says division makes us stronger. But in reality, we know that a whole is really more powerful than two halves. The folks that will be supported by this program are members of our whole community—they are our neighbors, our friends, our family, our leaders and folks that keep food on our tables. These members of our community deserve the same access to food as anyone else. Other states have already seen the importance of making sure everyone has access to food and passed similar programs. I know Oregon can move towards making the state more supportive of all communities by making food assistance accessible to anyone who needs it.

We know that when all of our neighbors are getting the food that they need, all of Oregon thrives. I urge you to vote YES on SB 610.

Thank you,

Mackenzie Aime, 97405