

Submitter: Vidhra Jackiw
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3435
FROM: Vidhra Jackiw
SUBJECT: Yes on HB 3435

Chair Neron, Vice-Chair McIntire, Vice-Chair Dobson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Vidhra Jackiw, and I'm a mother and health care provider. I'm in strong support of House Bill 3435, School Meals for All, which would ensure that every Oregon kid has the food they need at school, regardless of where they live in the state or how much money their parents make.

My daughter is a second grader at Buckman Elementary, which serves a diverse group of students from many backgrounds. Our community includes families who struggle to make ends meet, and we have a wonderful PTA that organizes community efforts to help these families with clothing exchanges, food banks, and children's gifts around the holidays.

My daughter loves her classmates; they are her second family. Knowing that some of these children face significant challenges in their home lives, including food insecurity, is heartbreaking. Our school community offers an important scaffolding for these kids and families, and at the very foundation of the hierarchy of needs is food. If these kiddos aren't getting their nutritional needs met at home, they are much less likely to thrive in school, either academically or socially. We want every child to thrive, for their own well-being, and the good of the societies that they will grow up to serve.

Please pass this bill and ensure that all children in our public school system don't have to battle hunger.

Sincerely,
Vidhra Jackiw