

Submitter: Emily Pope

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3435

My name is Emily Pope, and I am a school counselor at Joseph Lane Middle School. I am 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.

I work at a middle school with 600 students, most of who depend on school lunches for one of their daily nutritious meals. I cannot fathom students not having access to lunch because their families can't afford it. We have several students who depend on school lunch as that is their only meal of the day, and some who are still hungry even after they eat. With homelessness and food insecurity on the rise, I strongly advocate keeping School Meals for All as a program for our most vulnerable students.