

Submitter: Nicole Reksopuro

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3435

Greetings Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Dobson Vice-Chair, Vice-Chair McIntire, and other members of the committee,

My name is Nicole Reksopuro and I am a resident from Happy Valley, Oregon. I approach this committee not just from the standpoint of a constituent, but as a student. Schools are a place for students to learn and excel, but without access to critical needs— such as quality food, how can we ensure our children are physically able to be successful in the real world?

As a student who attends school in the North Clackamas School District, I am fortunate to be able to receive school-provided meals during breakfast and lunch, free of cost. However, accessing food should not be a privilege. In fact, food should not be a privilege. Unfortunately, last year, the Oregon Food Bank reported that 1 in 6 children go hungry in our state. Despite this, many schools have yet to implement a universal standard for school meals for all, leaving thousands behind in the dust. But realize that the source of this always goes back to a lack of funding. When students are constantly being malnourished in an academic setting, it detrimentally depletes their learning ability, especially in such a demanding environment. No kid, regardless of their background, should have to worry about where their next meal comes from, especially in a state that preaches equity and inclusion.

Which is why I urge you legislators to vote YES on Oregon House Bill 3435. This bill gives a vital opportunity for schools to better support their students. Food should never be a barrier to education, and by implementing free school meals for all statewide, it can significantly improve the lives of many in this state, ensuring no child goes to bed hungry. Please vote yes on the bill. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Nicole Reksopuro