

Submitter: Tiffany Orford
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services SUBJECT: Yes on SB 611 Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee, My name is Tiffany Orford, and I call Portland, Oregon my home. As a devoted parent, loving spouse, and CPA specializing in not-for-profit organizations, I am deeply committed to our community's well-being. In my role as Treasurer on the Board of Directors for the Oregon Food Bank, I have witnessed firsthand the importance of access to food for all. I am writing to express my unwavering support for Senate Bill 611, Food For All Oregonians, which would ensure Youth and Elderly Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy. In my role at the Oregon Food Bank, I have listened and responded to countless stories of parents sacrificing their own meals for their children, seniors choosing between medication and groceries, and immigrants who fear seeking help due to their status. Senate Bill 611, Food For All Oregonians, would help alleviate these fears and provide a crucial safety net for our most vulnerable neighbors. The opportunity to assist my community through the food bank has been profoundly rewarding. I firmly believe that one of the core duties and joys of being human is to care for one another. This bill promises fewer empty plates and more full hearts, ensuring that every Oregonian, regardless of their background, can flourish. The people experiencing hunger in our state are our neighbors, our family, our friends, the children our kids play with, our coworkers and their loved ones– the people who help make Oregon a beautiful place to live. Access to food should not depend on where we were born. I urge you to envision an Oregon where anyone who needs food can get it. 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 improves, 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 611. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Tiffany Orford