

Submitter: THOMAS MARTIN

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

Dear Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tom Martin, and I live in Portland. As the coordinator at St. Mark's Food Pantry, I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 611, Food For All Oregonians. This bill would ensure that Youth and Elderly Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need.

Oregon is facing a hunger crisis, with 1 in 6 children lacking enough to eat and a significant increase in hunger since the COVID-19 pandemic. Immigrant Oregonians, despite paying billions in taxes, are disproportionately affected, often excluded from vital food assistance due to their immigration status. Food is a basic human need, and no one should be denied access based on where they were born.

Senate Bill 611 will provide low-income Youth and Elders with grocery benefits currently unavailable to them. This will help build trust within our communities and ensure that everyone has the food they need to thrive.

When everyone has access to food, our communities flourish. I urge you to vote YES on SB 611. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Tom Martin