



March 17, 2025

RE: COIN Testimony in Support of SB 611

Dear Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

I am writing on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) to urge you to vote yes on SB 611. COIN is made up of Indivisible groups across Oregon that collaborate on policies and programs to protect the basic rights of Oregonians and to promote equality and inclusivity. Nothing is more basic than the right to access food. It is a human right that should not be denied because of where an Oregonian was originally born or where their family came from.

SB 611 is a narrowly drawn bill that would provide access to food for the most vulnerable Oregonians - those under 26 years and over 55 - who cannot now access SNAP and other hunger programs because of their immigration status. With SB 611 as law, we could truly assure there is food for all Oregonians.

It is unconscionable to deny Oregon children and older folks food simply because of their immigration status. Immigrant families work, pay taxes, go to school; they are friends and even family members, neighbors, co-workers, and an integral part of every community. Yet, the statistics tell us they are twice as likely to face hunger and poverty. It is particularly troubling that the families of immigrant farmworkers who grow our food cannot access that food for their children. We know hunger means bad health outcomes, difficulty in school, and homelessness, all of which destabilizes our economies and puts financial strain on our communities' resources. All for an unfair and inequitable lack of access to food.

Please vote yes on SB 611 which will go a long way to making sure all children and families have access to food and that everyone in our communities has the opportunity to thrive.

Laura Allen on behalf of Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network - COIN