

Submitter: Ali Ibrahim
On Behalf Of: Somali Oregon Service Center
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Testimony of Ali Ibrahim

On Behalf of the Somali Oregon Service Center

Before the Oregon Legislature

Regarding “Food for Oregonians” – Tackling Hunger for Disadvantaged Communities, Immigrants,

and Refugees My name is Ali Ibrahim, and I am honored to testify today on behalf of the Somali

Oregon Service Center in strong support of the “Food for Oregonians” initiative. Our organization

serves immigrants, refugees, and other disadvantaged communities across Oregon, ensuring they

have the resources and support necessary to build stable, thriving lives.

Hunger is an urgent crisis affecting too many Oregonians, especially those from immigrant and

refugee backgrounds. Families who have fled conflict, economic hardship, or political instability

arrive in our state seeking safety and opportunity. Yet, they often face significant barriers—language

challenges, employment difficulties, and lack of access to culturally appropriate food resources.

The “Food for Oregonians” initiative is a critical step in tackling this crisis. By expanding access to

nutritious food, increasing culturally responsive food programs, and strengthening support systems

for disadvantaged communities, this effort ensures that no Oregonian—regardless of their

background—goes hungry.

At the Somali Oregon Service Center, we have seen firsthand how food insecurity impacts the

families we serve. Many parents must choose between paying rent and feeding their children.

Seniors in our community often go without meals. Children struggle to focus in school due to hunger.

These are unacceptable realities in a state as resourceful as Oregon.

We urge you to support this initiative and invest in solutions that meet the diverse needs of our

communities. By ensuring equitable food access, we are not just addressing hunger—we are

promoting health, stability, and dignity for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and leadership on this critical issue. I welcome any questions and look

forward to working together to build a hunger-free Oregon.

ALI IBRAHIM

503-719 3175