

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services

SUBJECT: Yes on SB 611

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

I am writing in **strong support of 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.

My name is Andrew Gibson. I am an immigrant who arrived in the US (and Oregon) in 1987. I have enjoyed and benefitted from the generosity of my fellow Oregonians who have welcomed me into their homes, institutions and industries for nearly 40 years. I am blessed to have spent my adult life in this beautiful state, and it is my hope that Oregon will continue to lead with human decency at the center of our value system. Access to basic food support is an essential and non-negotiable component of our values.

Oregon is facing a hunger crisis, and it is getting worse. Today, **1 in 6 children in Oregon** don't have enough to eat, and **one-third more Oregonians** face hunger than before the COVID-19 pandemic. Food pantries across the state are confronting **record-breaking levels of demand**– the Oregon Food Bank has never seen this level of urgent need in its 40+ years of food banking.

I urge you to envision an Oregon where anyone who needs food can get it, and vote YES vote on SB 611.

Sincerely,

Andrew Gibson

Portland, Oregon