



March 24, 2025

Oregon Legislative Assembly
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

RE: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 611: Food for All Oregonians Program

Dear Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly,

I am writing today to urge your immediate support for Senate Bill 611, which establishes the Food for All Oregonians Program. This bill is a critical measure to ensure that Oregon's vulnerable populations, including immigrants, elderly residents, and disabled individuals, can access the food assistance they desperately need to lead healthy, productive lives.

While we celebrate the recent federal extension of SNAP benefits to Marshallese citizens, there are still significant gaps. Many Oregon residents, including students, older adults, and those unable to work due to illness, remain excluded from federal support. SB 611 will provide the permanent assistance these individuals need to avoid hunger and regain their independence.

Why SB 611 is Urgent for Oregon:

- Hardworking Oregonians, including Marshallese residents, have given so much to this state through their labor. Yet many now struggle with health issues that prevent them from working. SB 611 ensures that these individuals receive permanent support to meet their most basic needs.
- Students, particularly those from immigrant communities, are working hard to build a better future through education. SB 611 provides permanent assistance to help them stay focused on their studies without the stress of food insecurity.
- Older Oregonians on fixed incomes or facing serious health challenges struggle to meet basic needs. SB 611 will provide permanent food assistance for seniors, ensuring they can live with dignity and without the constant worry of where their next meal will come from.

Why SB 611 Matters to Your Constituents:

Oregonians in every district are facing food insecurity despite working hard to make ends meet. SB 611 will provide immediate relief to thousands of families who have been left behind by federal assistance programs. These are your constituents, and SB 611 is a way to ensure they receive the food support they deserve.

For example, the Jude family in your district has worked hard in Oregon's agricultural industry for years, but now Maria, the mother, is unable to work due to health issues. They cannot access federal food assistance, but SB 611 would provide them with the permanent support they need.

Immediate Action is Needed:

The growing cost of living, rising healthcare costs, and economic instability have left many Oregonians in need. SB 611 provides an immediate solution to help families struggling with hunger. The time to act is now. Oregon's vulnerable populations cannot afford to wait for federal action that doesn't fully address their needs.

Oregon's Leadership in Equity:

By passing SB 611, Oregon will continue its tradition of leading the nation in equity and compassion. This bill ensures that every Oregonian—young and old, immigrant and citizen—has the resources they need to live with dignity. It's a moral obligation to act now.

A Broad Coalition of Support:

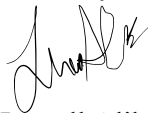
MANIT is working alongside numerous community organizations, advocacy groups, and immigrant and elderly care providers across Oregon to ensure that SB 611 benefits those who need it most. This broad coalition demonstrates the overwhelming support for this bill and shows that Oregon stands united in caring for its most vulnerable residents.

A Strong Call to Action:

Passing SB 611 is an opportunity to make Oregon a stronger, healthier, and more compassionate state. I ask that you vote Yes on SB 611 to ensure that no Oregonian—whether a student, immigrant, elderly, or disabled—is left hungry or without the support they need. Let's act now to make Oregon a model for compassion and equity.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We are counting on your leadership to pass SB 611 and provide critical food assistance to Oregon's most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,



Lowell Alik
Executive Director