



Members of the Committee,

My name is Hannah Joseph, Program Director at Seed to Table Oregon. Seed to Table Oregon is in **strong support of HB 5006**, Food For All Oregonians which would ensure Youth and Elder Oregonians, regardless of immigration status, have access to the food they need to keep them and their families healthy.

The mission of Seed to Table Oregon is to increase the health and wellness of the Central Oregon community through equitable access to farm fresh foods and to farm-based education. There are some foundations that we know to be true: Food is a Human Right. Our freedom, our health, our ability to thrive all depend on access to food that is nutritious and culturally familiar. No one should have to choose between paying their bills or putting food on the table. Access to food should not depend on where we were born. I urge you to envision an Oregon where anyone who needs food can get it.

We see first-hand how access to fresh foods improves quality of life. This isn't just about food insecurity. Access to nutritious food helps people beyond just hunger. For many, fresh vegetables are cost prohibitive, and are the first thing to get cut when finances are tight. Food security is foundational to improved health outcomes, reduced healthcare costs, job retention, improved behavioral health, and improved youth academics. We know that when we all have access to food, we're all better off. Kids do better in school, our families' health and well-being improves, and our economy thrives through the support of local businesses. This is true in every corner of Oregon—in rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. When all of our neighbors are getting the food that they need, all of Oregon thrives.

We urge you to support HB 5006 and increase access to basic rights for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Hannah Joseph