

April 16, 2025

TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Aly Larson, Our Children Oregon

SUBJECT: Support for Children's Agenda and endorsed measures

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Co-Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith,  
and Members of the Committee,

My name is Aly Larson, Communications and Policy Coordinator at Our Children Oregon (OCO). OCO is a statewide nonprofit committed to whole child wellbeing through the Children's Agenda- a comprehensive legislative agenda created and supported by our more than 135 member organizations across the state.

[This year's Children's Agenda](#) includes vital legislation to support families and children both in the present and in the future. The agenda includes policy covering housing, tax credits, nurse home-visiting, educator diversification, and more. Beyond the agenda, OCO has also chosen to endorse over [20 additional bills](#) to support thriving Oregonian children. Please see our website for the complete lists, or reach out and we can send them directly if your office does not already have them. At a time when so much federal funding is in question, it may seem brash to advocate that not a few of these bills, but ALL of them get funded.

A bill of particular interest and importance to me is SB 611-1, Food For All Oregonians. **SB 611-1 is a top priority of the 2025 Children's Agenda and has strong and widespread support from our partner organizations across Oregon.**

Food For All Oregonians would ensure that Oregonians aged 6 & under have access to the food they need to thrive, regardless of their immigration status .

**Food security is a human right and is critical in childhood development.**

During my time as an early childhood educator, I saw firsthand the impact of food insecurity on early childhood development. Kids who came to preschool consistently without breakfast struggled significantly more with behavioral issues, participation in social-emotional learning, and engaging in play. They were also more likely to sleep during individual play and group activities, therefore missing out on the valuable opportunities preschool offers for children to get to know themselves and others as they discover their individuality.

**We know that when we all have access to food, we're all better off.** 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 appreciate the work you do to support Oregon's children and families and we strongly urge you to prioritize a state budget which protects them.

Sincerely,

Aly Larson, Communications & Policy Coordinator, Our Children Oregon

View the [2025 Children's Agenda](#)