

## School Meals for All (SB 1581)

To Senate Committee on Education,

My name is Baldemar R. and I am a resident of Ontario, Oregon, located in Malheur County. In French, Malheur means misfortune and that is fitting for this area as we are a high poverty area. Based on this high poverty statistic our school district qualifies for 100% free and reduced lunch. Through the years, I have gotten to see first hand how these free and reduced lunches help not only the youth receiving the meal but also the families by helping offset meal costs. **Throughout my career, I have gotten to work closely with youth in my community and through this work I was able to discover that some youth rely on these free meals as they may not have access to food when they get home.** It is because of these experiences that I understand the importance of state funded free lunch, and I am in support of this initiative throughout the state of Oregon.

Thank you,  
Baldemar R.  
Ontario