

School Meals for All (SB 1581)

To Senate Committee on Education,

I grew up in Nyssa, Oregon and now live in Ontario, Oregon, and I carry with me the memory of what it felt like to be a hungry child. As part of the Migrant Program, there were many days when the meals I received at school were the most reliable food I had.

Knowing I would be fed at school gave me a sense of security and dignity during an otherwise uncertain time. **Hunger doesn't just hurt a child's body—it weighs on their heart, confidence, and ability to learn.** Free school lunches allowed me to focus on my education instead of worrying about when I would eat next. Every child in Oregon deserves that same sense of safety, nourishment, and chance to succeed.

Thank you,

Erica T.

Ontario, OR