

Submitter: Rebecca Battin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1581
Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Rebecca Battin, and I live in Beaverton, Oregon. I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB 1581: School Meals for All.

SB 1581 ensures that every student can access breakfast and lunch at school at no cost, regardless of income. This is a critical step to addressing hunger during an affordability crisis and ensuring that students can focus on learning rather than worrying about food.

I am especially encouraged that SB 1581 makes breakfast accessible after the start of the school day, recognizing that many students arrive late due to transportation barriers or family work schedules. Allowing breakfast to be served in the classroom and counted as instructional time ensures students are nourished without losing valuable learning time.

The bill also reduces administrative burdens for schools by eliminating meal applications, income verification, and unpaid meal debt collection. Just as importantly, it protects students from stigma and meal shaming, helping create school environments rooted in dignity, equity, and inclusion.

I personally grew up in a family that relied on SNAP and the free school meals that I got at school. Being able to reliably have food to eat at school so I could focus on learning was so essential and grounding in my childhood. I know from my experience that if all children were able to access this benefit, it would be very positive for all children and families. All children should be able to fully participate in their education and not be distracted, fatigued, and anxious from hunger.

Please support this bill. Now more than ever, our families need this support.