

Submitter:

Chris Altman

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1581

Committee,

My name is Chris Altman and I live in Eugene, Oregon. I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB 1581: School Meals for All.

This shouldn't be something we have to vote on. We are tired of our taxes going to expand roads for terrible drivers or benefit the tourist crowd coming to see some Autzen event. What about the people? What about the kids?

Unfortunately in 2026 we have to doubt everyone. If you don't support school lunches for kids, then I wonder what you do support. Child labor? Child rape? Good golly, what year is it? What universe is this where we have to ask if children should get to eat while our tax dollars are spent on better access to the stadium or better parking for spending your money? Is this what Lane County has become? Disgusting. 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.