

Written Testimony in Support of SB 1581

Submitted by: Diana Nguyen, BS, MPH Candidate at OHSU-PSU

Affiliation: APANO

Date: February 4, 2026

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Diana Nguyen, and I am a public health master's student from Beaverton, Oregon. I am here on behalf of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO). Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written testimony **in support of SB 1581**.

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 address hunger during an affordability crisis and to make sure students can focus on learning rather than worrying about food.

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

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

Research and lived experience show that when students have reliable access to nutritious food, schools see improved attendance, fewer disciplinary incidents, and better academic outcomes. SB 1581 is a smart investment in student success and in Oregon's future.

With only a small number of schools remaining before Oregon becomes a Hunger-Free Schools state, I urge you to **vote "YES" on SB 1581** and ensure that no child in Oregon goes hungry at school.

Thank you for considering my testimony,
Diana Nguyen

