

Submitter: Genesis Calderon-Martinez
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1581

Hello,

My name is Genesis Calderon-Martinez, I am current resident of Portland, Oregon. I grew up in White City, Oregon in rural Southern Oregon. I remember being in the demographic where my family would get free lunches at school, at some point both my dad got a promotions in their factory job and we lost the free lunch program. We still however did not have enough money for me to be given for lunch everyday. I remember being hungry, feeling shame at school when I didnt have money and had to step out of the line when the lunch lady notified me there were no funds left. I often ate a bag of hot cheetos for lunch over two or three days in high school, this is the reality of many students who should be focused on learning not how they are going to stretch their bag of chips. This is the reality of many students especially, students from my hispanic communities in rural Southern Oregon. Please put our children first and pass this bill. The most supportive counselors in my high school experience were the counselors that offered snacks and food, and thanks to them I owe my success.

Sincerely,
Genesis Calderon-Martinez, MBA, SHRM-SCP
Community & Culture Program Manager