

2/4/26

Testimony in support of SB 1581
Senate Committee on Education

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alisa Kajikawa and I am a Community Development Director at APANO. We partner with Urban Gleaners to provide a Free Food Market every week for our community members. We see hundreds of community members every month and have recently been seeing new faces at our market. While neither Urban Gleaners nor APANO ask for information, we have anecdotally heard from market attendees how much our market helps them with food costs and keeps food in the kitchen for their family. We have heard from folks who earn just too much to qualify for SNAP, but are still struggling to pay for rent, bills, and medical expenses. And, it is the market that helps them cut costs so they can focus on the other expenses.

For these reasons and for the simple fact that no person, especially children, should go hungry in this country, **I urge you to pass SB 1581**. School Meals for All will allow families throughout Oregon, including the families that attend our food market, to breathe a little easier knowing their children will have breakfast and lunch provided. It has been proven that children can concentrate and focus better in school when they have enough to eat.

In a moment of time where many see our country as chaotic, hurtful, and cruel, let Oregon stand as an example of love and compassion. Let us be an example of what one of the most resource rich and powerful countries could actually do: **take care of its people**.

Thank you,
Alisa Kajikawa
Community Development Director
APANO Communities United Fund