

February 5, 2026

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

My name is Judy Zimmerman and I live in Parkdale, 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 bill is an important step towards ensuring that our children can focus on learning, instead of feeling hungry.

Many students arrive at school without having had breakfast. This bill offers breakfast after the start of the school day, helping those who arrive late, many through no fault of their own. Allowing breakfast to be served in the classroom and counted as instructional time ensures students are nourished without losing valuable learning time.

This bill helps protect students from stigma and shaming, since all students get a meal at no cost. This fosters a school climate of kindness and respect. The bill also reduces the administrative burden that schools shoulder.

I am a long-time volunteer at the Parkdale FISH Food Bank. I co-founded and help run a mutual aid pantry in Parkdale, the Upper Valley Community Food Pantry. I've seen first hand the challenges that families face in feeding their members. Families without food insecurity are families that can be engaged in their communities. They worry far less about how their children will be fed. They are better able to contribute to the vitality of our rural community. When my neighbors are well, I am well. We all benefit.

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.

With appreciations for your willingness to serve in the legislature and for your leadership.

Warm regards,

Judy Zimmerman
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Community Member, Food Bank Volunteer