

Jasia Mosley
Senate Committee On Education
RE: YES on School Meals For All, SB 1581



February 2nd, 2026

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber and members of the committee,

My name is Jasia Mosley, and I'm the Advocacy Manager at Next Up Action Fund. Our organization has been around since 2002, and our mission is to build political power with diverse young people to achieve a more just and equitable Oregon. We're an organization led by and working with predominantly Black, Indigenous, and youth of color. What we want most is a world that values and invests in them, and to do so we need to make sure that children flourish and have access to food. Thus, we are testifying in strong support of the School Meals For All, SB 1581, which will ensure that free breakfast and lunches are offered to *any* student, regardless of their ability to pay.

As someone who grew up using the free lunch system I know how important it is to have access to meals at school. As a kid I used to feel embarrassed having to get free lunch when my friends who had wealthier families were able to bring lunches from home. I would hesitate to get my lunch because kids would make fun of me for having to get school food. However, I would not have been as successful of a student without the access to free breakfast and lunch. I knew what it was like to miss one of those meals and it was nearly impossible for me to be focused in my classes without them. Even now, the necessity of this bill feels common sense, as an adult I know how hard it is for me to work and get through my day if I miss a meal, so it makes even more sense that children who are growing and learning would be impacted significantly by missing a meal as well.

We want an Oregon where youth can thrive and be successful students and human beings. [1 in 6 children in Oregon don't have enough food to eat](#). The rate is 2-3x higher for Black, Latinx, and Indigenous children. Students can't learn when they're hungry, or when they're worried about where their next meal might come from. Especially in a hunger and affordability crisis, it is important Oregon lawmakers do what they can to shield all children against federal changes so that students can get the meals they need to do well in

school. School meals enable students to grow and learn, and provide far-reaching benefits beyond the school day.

This bill is a part of the Anti Hunger Package and is supported by a diverse coalition of organizations who value food justice and ending hunger and its root causes. No student in Oregon should go hungry at school, no matter where they live, or how much money their family makes. **We urge you all to vote YES on SB 1581, School Meals for All, this legislative session so that all of our kids have the food they need to learn and grow.**

Sincerely,
Jasia Mosley
Advocacy Manager
Next Up Action Fund