



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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of **SB 1581: School Meals for All**. We are writing on behalf of the Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO). HSCO is a coalition representing over 50 human services-aligned organizations across Oregon that join together to promote the dignity of all Oregonians through improved public policy and strengthened support for human services.

HSCO's members represent a broad spectrum of organizations that weave the web needed to support people in our community who may otherwise fall through the cracks. This includes students, children, and those facing hunger across Oregon. 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 addressing hunger during an affordability crisis and ensuring that students can focus on learning rather than worrying about food.

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Respectfully,
HSCO Board