

Submitter: Adam Wickert

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1581

My name is Adam Wickert, and I live in Happy Valley, 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 is a critical step to addressing hunger during an affordability crisis and ensuring that students can focus on learning rather than worrying about food.

I am especially encouraged that SB 1581 makes breakfast accessible after the start of the school day, recognizing that many students arrive late due to transportation barriers or family work schedules. Allowing breakfast to be served in the classroom and counted as instructional time ensures students are nourished without losing valuable learning time.

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.

As a parent and an educator, I understand how vital it is to have a consistent, uninterrupted meal schedule. By providing breakfast and lunch in school, you are eliminating another source of stress for all parties involved. Parents don't need to stress about providing a healthy meal for their children. The children know that their needs will always be taken care of, and school staff can rest easily knowing that while a child is in school, their basic needs are being met.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Adam Wickert