

Date: March_____, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Human Services

RE: Support for SB 609

To Chair Sen. Sara Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Sen. Art Robinson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is (insert name and credentials is applicable) and I am writing to express **support for Senate Bill 609**, which will allow hours worked as a graduate assistant at universities to count towards the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Use 1-2 or more of the Messaging bullet points below.

- Every graduate assistant is kept to less than 20 hours a week of employment, commonly being paid for 12 to 19 hours per week.
- Right now in the state of Oregon, these hours do not count towards SNAP eligibility.
- Most graduate employees are below the poverty line and are 24-35 years old, and many are married and with kids.
- Starting your family with low pay is already hard not being able to qualify your household for SNAP is heartbreaking. Collective bargaining cannot fix the statutory limit on having hours of work count towards SNAP eligibility.

Add 3-5 sentences about why this bill is impactful to your life and/or community. This is where you should really hone in on the impact and importance of food security by weaving in your union's experiences and/or personal story.

I urge your yes vote on SB 609. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Your name