

Date: March [REDACTED], 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 ([REDACTED]) 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