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November 3, 1997

Senator Eileen Qutub
11135 SW Partridge Loop
Beaverton, OR 97007

Dear Senator Qutub,

As you are aware, on November 20th and 21st the Legislative Emergency Board will again consider the proposal to allocate \$4.9 million for assistance to very low income Oregonians adversely affected by federal welfare reform. We urge you to strongly support this proposal.

The proposal, which has the support of the Department of Human Resources, will accomplish the following:

- provide "GA level" services to certain legal non-citizens who as a result of welfare reform are now ineligible for such services;
- increase GA payments by \$48 to restore losses in food stamps as a result of welfare reform;
- provide funds to strengthen Oregon's food bank network;
- provide assistance to facilitate the naturalization of legal non-citizens.

Community Action recently sponsored community meetings on emergency and basic need in both Hillsboro and Tigard. Approximately 75 representatives of churches, social service organizations, local government, and concerned individuals attended these meetings. The consensus voiced in these meetings is that members of our community are experiencing adverse affects as a result of federal welfare reform. This is particularly true for an increasing number of working low income people who are having trouble feeding their families, and many legal non-citizens who no longer qualify for public benefits.

We urge your support for this very modest level of state support to help those most in need.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

Leon Laptook
Deputy Director