

TO: SENATE HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE
FROM: KASANDRA GRIFFIN, UPSTREAM PUBLIC HEALTH
DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 2012
RE: SB 1567: SENIOR FARM DIRECT NUTRITION



Chair Monnes Anderson, Members of the Committee,

My name is Kasandra Griffin. I am the Policy Manager for School Health at Upstream Public Health, a statewide nonprofit organization focused on improving the health of Oregonians.

I am here today to testify in support of SB 1567, which is good for seniors and good for farmers.

Upstream Public Health worked in 2011 on HB 2800, which supported Farm to School initiatives in Oregon. We enthusiastically support this bill as another way to get more local produce into the refrigerators and stomachs of another population of Oregonians, in this case seniors. It offers the same opportunity to improve the physical health of the target population while improving the economic health of Oregon farmers. We support the existing farm direct nutrition program, and we support this proposal to expand it to reach more people.

As Senator Dingfelder emphasized, this is a double win.

In the Oregonian on Wednesday, commenting on the revised budget forecast, Senate President Courtney said this:

“Revenue is down a little, but it will fit within the co-chairs’ budget proposal. That means we can move forward with a budget rebalance that will keep our schools open and criminals behind bars. It means we will take care of our seniors and provide services for people with disabilities and our children”

I encourage you to take this opportunity to help President Courtney meet that promise, and pass this bill.