



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Testimony in Support of SB 1567,
allocating funds to the Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program
Friday, February 10, 2012, 3 p.m.,
Senate Health Care, Human Services, and Rural Policy Committee

Chairs Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair Kruse, Sen. Morse, Sen. Shields, and Sen Bates:

The Oregon Commission for Women, in its role of advocate for the women of Oregon, strongly supports this bill. Women make up a disproportionate number of seniors and are more likely to live in poverty than senior men. Therefore, we believe that this act is especially critical to Oregon senior women.

The program provides \$32 vouchers to seniors who are 60 or over, participate in SNAP or Medicaid, and whose incomes are below 135% of the federal poverty level. According to the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force, only 53 percent of eligible seniors receive vouchers. Enabling more seniors, who are often on fixed incomes, to receive vouchers will provide more access to the fresh fruits and vegetables needed for a healthy diet.

The Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program is a win-win for many Oregonians. Not only does it enable low-income seniors to have more nutritious diets, it also helps Oregon farmers. Seniors with vouchers become important customers for the local farmers, promoting the growth of family farms.

Please vote Aye on SB 1567.

Sincerely,

Sunny Petit, Chair
Oregon Commission for Women

OR Commission for Women

Chair:

Sunny Petit

Vice Chair:

Jenny Greenleaf

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Megan Jacquot

Mee Seon Kwon

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