



**DIANE ROSENBAUM**

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

**To:** Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
**From:** Senator Diane Rosenbaum  
**Date:** March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
**Re:** Testimony in support of Senate Bill 456

---

Madam Chair, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for holding this hearing on Senate Bill 456 which will allow more of Oregon's low-income seniors to utilize the Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program.

The Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program encourages the purchase of fresh local fruits and vegetables and promotes them as part of the daily diet of low-income seniors in Oregon.

By affording low-income seniors an opportunity to buy from local farmers markets, the SFDNP also increases sales of Oregon grown fruit, vegetables and herbs from local farmers markets, which in turn directly supports local farmers. This program is a win-win for Oregon seniors and local farmers.

Currently, only half of eligible seniors receive vouchers through this program. By adding \$400,000 to this program, we can allow an additional 6,000 seniors a year to purchase fresh Oregon fruits and vegetables.

In 2012 this program was utilized in every county of Oregon, serving over 31,000 Oregon seniors. State and Federal contributions paid nearly \$1 million to Oregon farmers through the Senior Farm Direct Program.

As a longtime member of the Oregon Hunger Task Force, I encourage you all to support this measure. The vision of the Task Force is to create an Oregon where everyone is healthy and thriving, with access to affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food.



By allowing more low-income seniors to access this program we can ensure that seniors on fixed incomes still have the opportunity to get fresh fruits and vegetables that benefit their health as well as contribute to our local farm community.

Thank you,

*Diane Rosenbaum*

Senator Diane Rosenbaum  
Senate District 21