

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Knopp, Kruse, Shields, Steiner Hayward, Monnes Anderson
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/11

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Appropriates \$400,000 from General Fund to Oregon Health Authority for nutrition program for low-income seniors.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Program is used statewide
- Importance of accessing fresh fruit and vegetables
- Components of senior health programs
- Impact on low-income seniors

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program (SFDNP), funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), provides low-income, eligible seniors with vouchers (checks) to purchase fresh locally grown fruit, vegetables and cut herbs. The vouchers (checks) can only be used at approved farm stands and farmer's markets. Additionally, the program supports local agriculture by providing customers for Oregon farmers. The program's purpose is to improve nutrition for Oregon seniors and support local Oregon farmers. In 2012, the program served 31,000 seniors.

Senate Bill 456 appropriates additional funds that will allow additional eligible seniors to purchase Oregon fruits and vegetables and expands the use of farmers markets and farm stands.