



**Testimony in support of House Bill 4090**  
**Senate Committee on Education and Workforce Development**  
**Submitted by Sarah Flynn, Oregon Food Bank**  
**February 18, 2014**

***Mission:***

*To eliminate  
hunger and its  
root causes. . .  
because no  
one should  
be hungry.*

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Oregon Food Bank supports House Bill 4090. Over half of all of Oregon's children rely on free or reduced price meals in school. These children lack sufficient access to meals when the school day is over and during summer breaks. HB 4090 would increase the availability of nutritious meals for kids during summer breaks by making startup grants available to more sites that want to provide summer meals. These grants would reduce financial barriers for organizations that want help reduce childhood hunger.

Good nutrition is necessary to establish a strong foundation for children's future physical and mental health, academic achievement and economic productivity. Unfortunately, food insecurity among children is an obstacle that threatens this foundation. We are deeply concerned about childhood hunger in Oregon and we know from our hunger factors survey that more than one third of the people who eat out of an emergency food box from the Oregon Food Bank Network are children.

We know that low income parents find providing nutritious meals for their children to be even more challenging when kids are out of school. Hunger doesn't take a vacation when school is out of session, and that is one reason why summer meal programs are so important to Oregon children. Summer meals from the Sumer Food Service Program help reduce hunger and increase the availability of healthy meals for children and youth during the summer break, by providing free meals to children and youth at approved sites in areas with significant concentrations of low-income children.

The expansion of existing grants for after school meal and snack programs to include summer food programs will build on the success of the After School Meal startup and expansion grants and it will increase the number of healthy meals available across the state for children and youth.

Thank you for your consideration.