

**To:** Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

**Date:** April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

**From:** Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum

**RE:** SB 700

Chair Gelser and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 700. For the record, I am Senator Diane Rosenbaum from Senate District 21 which includes inner Southeast Portland, Milwaukie and Oak Grove. I am also a member of the Oregon Hunger Task Force, whose mission is to address the root causes of hunger in Oregon. This is a good bill that aims to expand and improve access to fresh fruits and vegetables for low-income seniors, women and children.

This bill provides assistance and incentives to low-income seniors, women and children to purchase fresh, unprocessed, locally grown fruits, vegetables and herbs from farmers' markets or roadside stands for themselves and their families. Senate Bill 700 will provide additional funds for WIC and Senior Farm Direct, as well as set aside money to explore additional fruit and vegetable match opportunities, helping seniors, women, children, and farmers to thrive. This is a win-win investment in the health of Oregonians.

I truly appreciate the hard work that has gone into crafting these bills. Thank you Patti Whitney-Wise, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon and the Hunger Task Force for the time you dedicated to crafting this bill. Chair Gelser and members of the committee, I urge you to vote in support of Senate Bill 700. Oregon's low-income seniors, women, and children deserve affordable access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

I began my time on the Oregon Hunger Task Force for over ten years, and I recognize that we have made significant progress in feeding our vulnerable and hungry. But there is still work to do. That is why I am a proud Chief sponsor of Senate Bill 700. I look forward to working with you this session to promote policies that address hunger in our communities, and aim to improve the lives of Oregonians.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Rosenbaum".

Senator Diane Rosenbaum  
Senate Majority Leader  
District 21

