

**From:** tntfinnerty@localnet.com  
**To:** [JWMHS Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Oregon Farm Direct Nutrition Program  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 08, 2017 12:35:33 PM

---

To Members of the Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Human Services:

I am the market manager for Saturday Market in Ontario, Oregon, a moderate size farmer/crafter market in Malheur County. We live in one of the poorest counties in Oregon and have a large population that use the Oregon Farm Direct Nutrition Program checks managed by the Oregon Health Authority. We see many people utilizing those checks at our Market and they greatly appreciate the ability to buy locally raised fresh fruit and vegetables with those checks. In many circumstances, they would not be able to buy fresh fruit and vegetables due to budget constraints. Fresh produce improves nutrition and health of the population.

I understand the need for budget cutbacks, but this would seriously impact the seniors and young mothers and children in our area in a very negative way. If you would consider keeping the one-time General Fund appropriations from 2015-17 in the 2017-29 budget for the Oregon Health Authority, that would be wonderful. At the very least, please keep the \$300,000 for the Oregon Farm Direct Nutrition Program. \$300,000 is not much compared to the rest of the budget, but it is over half of the program's budget for the 2017-19 biennium.

Please, for the health of our seniors and young mothers and children, please continue the funding for the Oregon Health Authority's 2017-19 budget.

Thank you,

Teri Anne Finnerty  
Market Manager, Saturday Market, Ontario