



April 10, 2017

Dear Senate Human Services Committee,

We are writing in support of SB 1029, the Oregon Farm Direct Nutrition program that will be voted on today.

As a non-profit organization, Adelante Mujeres has a long history of working to improve the health and well-being of the Washington County community. For over 14 years, we have been providing holistic education and empowerment opportunities to low-income Latina women and their families, in order to ensure full participation and active leadership in the community. Our programs include small business development, sustainable agriculture training, adult and early childhood education, youth development and we manage the Forest Grove Farmers Market.

Governor Brown's recommended 2017-19 budget for the state discontinues one-time General Fund appropriations from the 2015-17 biennium for all programs that received them, including the Oregon Farm Direct Nutrition program. This amounts to a loss of \$300,000, leaving just \$299,558 for the program in 2017-19 biennium. Discontinuing one-time funds amounts to a reduction in the effort to fight hunger in Oregon. This means fewer low-income seniors and young mothers and their children will be able to access Oregon grown produce.

The reduction of funds would not only have negative impacts on the mothers and children we serve, but also the farmer participants at our Forest Grove Farmers Market who benefit from the added economic stimulus.

We urge you to support SB 1029, to help nourish families and farmers.

Sincerely,

Bridget Cooke
Executive Director