

OREGON COALITION OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

February 21, 2019

Senate Human Services Committee

Testimony in Support of SB 727

Chair Gelser and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

My name is Morgan Cowling and I am the Executive Director for the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO). I work with and on behalf of the 33 local public health authorities in Oregon who work every day to prevent the spread of disease, protect the public's health, and promote health. CLHO supports SB 727 which improves the health of low-income Oregon families by increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables while also supporting local farmers.

Increasing fruit and vegetable consumption is linked to reducing the risk of many causes of illness and death, including type 2-diabetes, cancer, obesity, and heart disease. Only 11 percent of Oregonians eat the recommended servings of vegetables each day and only 14.5 percent are eating the recommended servings of fruit and, according to the CDC, lower-income adults eat even less. Studies have found that barriers for people eating fruits and vegetables include high cost and limited access.

SB 727 builds on the successful Farmers Market Fund's pilot that ran from 2015-2018 where 90 percent of food benefit recipients reported an increase in fruit and vegetable purchases as a result of the program. The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials urges your support of SB 727.

Respectfully submitted,

Morgan D. Cowling
Executive Director



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