

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jessica Normark. I am a Double Up Food Bucks shopper and resident of Astoria, Oregon.

I am writing to request your support for SB 440 and 555.

The Double Up Food Bucks matching program has helped me very much to be more food secure, as well as healthier.

I first discovered it years ago at a weekly local farmers market. I would walk home, smiling, with an armful of beautiful bunches of kale and other vegetables. A couple of people even asked to take my picture because I was the epitome of what the market aspired to embody: joy in the simple, basic needs for community and healthy food. Then I was happy to learn that the local coop also was participating in this program, as it enabled me to make use of it more often and to afford more of my favorite vegetables and fruits, both of which can be very expensive.

I have often wished that the program was offered in more stores and that more people who need it were aware it existed. Most of the people I have told about it had not heard of it. Many people in need could be helped if this program and information about it were more widespread.

Some time ago, because not enough people were using the program, our local coop, stopped participating in it. I was relieved to discover, in the midst of this Covid pandemic, that, apparently because of 2019 state funding, they were able to support it again. I hope it continues.

Thank you for your consideration and service.

Sincerely,
Jessica Normark
Astoria