



VOICES UNITED.
OPPORTUNITY REIMAGINED.

February 2, 2021

Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 440 and SB 555

Chair Gelser, Vice-Chair Anderson and Members of the Committee,

Our Children Oregon's (OCO) mission is to be a voice and force for the common good for all Oregon children, ensuring all children have the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential. OCO is the result of the merger between two historic Oregon non-profits: The Children's Trust Fund of Oregon and Children First For Oregon. We elevate data and lived experience to prioritize children and center communities. We continue to connect a community of 115 advocates, coalitions, and organizations through The Children's Agenda, a legislative agenda championing equitable state legislative policies and shared investments to improve the lives of Oregon's children and their families.

Expanding Double Up Food Bucks Oregon is part of the 2021 Children's Agenda. We support SB 555 and SB 440 to expand Double Up Food Bucks Oregon, a SNAP incentive program with a proven record of success. For every dollar spent on SNAP-eligible foods at participating farmers markets, farm share programs, and grocery stores across the state, shoppers will receive a dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

Food insecurity was an issue before the pandemic. The [2020 Oregon KIDS COUNT County Data Cards](#), released at the end of November, 2020, offer a snapshot of child and family well-being at the state and county level before the pandemic, and represent the 27th year of this report. The data cards feature pre-COVID data for 21 indicators organized across 4 domains: economic well-being, education, health, and family and community. **In 2018 approximately one in six (16%) Oregon children were experiencing food insecurity, and in parts of the state food insecurity was as high as nearly 1 in 4 children.**

Data from a [Kids, Families and COVID-19: Pandemic Pain Points and the Urgent Need to Respond](#) show that food insecurity has increased during

The Children's Agenda

is a broad slate of equitable investments and policy solutions to meet the holistic needs of Oregon children, youth, and their families.



P.O. Box 14694
Portland, OR 97293
503.236.9754

ourchildrenoregon.org

the pandemic, with [households with children reporting higher food insecurity than households without children in Oregon.](#)

Double Up Food Bucks expands the purchasing choices for families receiving SNAP benefits and invests in Oregon farmers and local economies.

Thank you for your consideration and we ask you to support SB 550 and SB 440.

From the Our Children Oregon Team,

Chis Coughlin, Policy, Advocacy, and Engagement Director

Jenifer Wagley, Executive Director

View the 2021 Children's Agenda at www.ourchildrenoregon.org/2021-childrens-agenda