



February 3, 2022

House Committee on Human Services
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Letter of Support for HB4088

Dear Chair Williams, Vice-Chair Ruiz, Vice-Chair Scharf and Members of the House Committee on Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer Health Share's support for HB4088. Health Share is a Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) serving approximately 400,000 Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties. We support HB4088 because we recognize that food insecurity jeopardizes the health of our members and that access to good nutrition is ultimately a health equity issue.

Health Share has been a leader in efforts to integrate social determinants of health into the delivery of Medicaid services offered through the Oregon Health Plan. Health Share recognizes that it is critical to connect members to resources related to food and housing. This bill puts our state on a path where vulnerable individuals who might not have access to a kitchen, or who lack the capacity to cook for themselves, can still obtain a decent meal. By developing a plan to implement the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Restaurant Meals Program in Oregon, we have a unique opportunity to join other states in allowing seniors, people living with disabilities and those confronting houselessness to purchase ready-made meals at participating restaurants.

As Oregon's largest CCO, we are a Medicaid organization that is proud to advocate for the comprehensive quality of life needs of our diverse membership. Moreover, we recognize that it is important to provide opportunities for our members to live healthy lives and reach their full potential. Food insecurity is a basic need that far too many Oregonians struggle with, and we are proud to be a part of this effort. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Yoni Kahn-Jochnowitz, Director of Public Policy, at kahn-jochnowitz@healthshareoregon.org.

Sincerely,

Yoni Kahn-Jochnowitz
Director of Public Policy
Health Share of Oregon