



Taking action for basic human needs.



To: House Human Services Committee
From: Human Services Coalition of Oregon
Date: February 3, 2022
Re: Support HB 4088

Chair Williams and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO), I respectfully request your support for HB 4088 to create a ODHS workgroup to find Oregon's path to implement the SNAP Restaurant Meals Program.

For over three decades, HSCO has convened like-minded advocates in an effort to fight for the policy development and resources necessary to support vulnerable Oregonians. HSCO is made up of over 100 individuals and organizations that work together to develop effective tax, education, health care, housing, human services and economic development policy that together make Oregon a better place for all its citizens.

SNAP is a critical human services benefit for Oregonians. The Restaurant Meals Program is a federal option that allows certain community members eligible for SNAP who experience homelessness, live with disabilities, and are seniors to purchase hot meals at qualifying restaurants. The workgroup as proposed will incorporate the voices of those have lived experiences with SNAP, which we believe will create the best solutions.

Expanding the ways that people can access food in a way that they can eat is critical for many of our communities. Currently under Oregon's SNAP rules, people who don't have kitchens or who have difficulty cooking don't have options to get a hot meal. This workgroup is a critical step towards creating a more robust SNAP program for many of our most vulnerable Oregonians. This workgroup will allow Oregon to learn from the other states that have already implemented this program, the experience of those who will benefit from it and to find the best path forward for hot meals for the SNAP recipients who need them most.

Thank you for your time and your support for HB 4088.

Sincerely,
HSCO CO-Chairs

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