

Submitter: Philip Hochheiser

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2728

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Philip Hochheiser. I am a Front End Manager at a cooperative grocery store in Corvallis.

I am writing to request your support for HB 2728. HB 2728 supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon, a SNAP matching program with a proven record of success. For every dollar spent on SNAP-eligible foods at participating farmers markets, farm stands, CSA programs, and grocery stores across the state, shoppers will receive an additional dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

This program is important to me because I've directly seen the positive impact this program has had on struggling families in my community. I've witnessed it increase the number of fresh fruits and vegetables going out to families. I've seen various budgeting strategies being adopted in order to help stretch our customers' access to fresh food throughout the month. I've seen customers shed tears of thanks for the assistance this program has given them. The Double Up Food Bucks program goes a long way to support our local farmers as well.

These past few years have been challenging. The cost of food increased by over 10% in

2022, which impacted communities already facing disparities the hardest. Many Oregonians will

be losing pandemic-related food assistance after this month. Double Up Food Bucks is one

important way we can support community members struggling to afford food, invest in

Oregon's farmers, and support local economies. Passing HB 2728 would mean that more Oregonians participating in SNAP would have better access to fruits and vegetables. It means more grocery stores, farmers markets, and more CSAs in more corners of the state can participate. I urge your support for HB 2728.

Philip Hochheiser

First Alternative Co-op

Corvallis, OR