

Submitter: Melina Barker  
On Behalf Of: Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network  
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services  
Measure: HB2728

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Melina Barker. I am the Director of the Oregon Farm to School & School Garden Network- I work statewide and live in Ashland, OR. 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, like farm to school, it supports food producers and families which in turn impacts Oregon's economy, the health of Oregonians and community resilience. Now more than ever, due to inflation challenges and COVID impacts, families need support accessing fresh, healthy food. This program allows access to local, fresh food while also supporting our local farmers and food producers who have also be impacted by economic factors as well as natural disasters and climate change impacts.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Melina Barker  
Ashland, OR