

Submitter: Emily Ralston

On Behalf Of:

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 Emily Ralston. I am the Rural Food Security Coordinator for the High Desert Food & Farm Alliance in Bend. 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 have seen the difference that DUFB makes in people's lives. It allows individuals that are eligible for SNAP benefits to go beyond their basic needs and purchase fresh, local produce that would otherwise be inaccessible to them. DUFB increases accessibility to opportunities like CSA shares that families who are SNAP recipients would otherwise not be able to enjoy. In increasing accessibility to healthier food through DUFB, the quality of life as well as the health and wellbeing of individuals increases as well. A diet higher in produce leads to less diet-modifiable diseases like diabetes and heart disease and has been shown to lower healthcare costs. This is why DUFB is important to me, to my work, and to my community.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Emily Ralston, Bend.