

Submitter: Briana Arnold

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2728

My name is Briana Arnold. I am a resident in Portland, OR and a recipient of the DUFEB program. 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.

I have volunteered with Farmers Market Fund, the organization that administers DUFEB in Oregon. I volunteer with Farmers Market Fund because my work as a public health professional has focused on equity and the intersection of food systems and health. DUFEB exists at this nexus: supporting health and equity in food systems.

I grew up in a small rural town that did not have farmers markets. After moving to Portland, with its culture of supporting farmers through farmers markets, I became a regular farmers market shopper. A few years ago, as a student, I received SNAP benefits and was able to receive DUFEB benefits. Because of DUFEB, I was able to get fresh farmers market produce and even purchase a CSA box as a student. This winter, I lost my job and once again have been receiving SNAP and DUFEB benefits. With the increased match, from \$10 to \$20, since the last time I received DUFEB, I am able to continue to purchase produce at markets despite the inflation increases in food and produce.

My volunteer experience with Farmers Market Fund and my experience as a DUFEB recipient gives me unique insight into the program and I have come to realize this winter just how important and deeply meaningful funding for DUFEB is. Beyond helping people shop for fresh food, it benefits farmers and farmers markets. It also gives low income people who might not normally go to farmers markets incentives to visit and makes farmers markets more inclusive spaces. Farmers markets can be inaccessible if one doesn't make a good wage because prices are higher than at grocery stores, but with DUFEB, low income people receiving SNAP have one less barrier (cost of food) to purchasing food at a farmers market.

Thank you Chair Reynolds, Vice Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the Committee for the consideration and for your service.

Briana Arnold

Portland, OR