

Submitter: Natasha ODell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2728

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Natasha ODell, I am a resident of Corvallis, Oregon.

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 work at a small grocery store in Southtown of Corvallis, where many people I interact with use Snap to regularly purchase their groceries. Double Up Food Bucks Oregon is a fantastic program that makes it possible for low income families and individuals to have access to more fresh fruits and veggies. There are SO many people in my community that use this program, and tell me often how appreciative they are of it. Access to fresh produce is so important for everyone to have, and providing resources to allow people quality food, strengthens communities, promotes buying and shopping local, and helps grow local economies. If this program were to be defunded, I and many people in my community would be devastated. I urge you to vote in favor of our communities who rely on programs like this to sustain their families.

With the food costs rising across the country, this is more important than ever, and as someone who sees first hand grocery costs go up, I cannot stress the importance of quality affordable produce.

I urge your support for HB 2728.

Thank you for your time.

Natasha Odell