

Submitter: Erin Morse

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2728

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Erin Morse . I am a resident of 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 want everyone in my community to be able to eat the wonderful local fruits and vegetables grown locally around Corvallis if they want it. I serve the Linn Benton NAACP Health & Wellness Committee, the Benton County Master Gardener Association as an Extension volunteer and work at First Alternative Food Co-op in Corvallis. Not only do houseless folks in our city, elderly people and single moms need the Double Up Food Bucks Oregon, but so do many of my co-workers who are fully employed. So many are struggling to get the nutrition they need. Western Oregon is lucky to have year-round produce at our back door. With the high cost of housing in our area people need all the help they can get obtaining their share of our region's nutritious, locally-grown produce. This program is necessary and effective.

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 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.

Erin Morse

Corvallis
First Alternative Food Co-op & Linn Benton NAACP