

Submitter: Rae Nelson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2728

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rae Nelson. I am a resident in Corvallis, Oregon. 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 grew up in poverty, lived it in my young adulthood, and if this program were available where I grew up, I would have had access to life sustaining and healthy food options. This program affects anyone living in poverty feed themselves or their children without sacrificing nutritional value and giving access to fresh fruits and vegetables making it easier to provide quality meals. This program provides food security which is vital right now in the financial climate we are living in. It would be an absolute travesty to see this program not move forward with the fullest support.

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.

Rae Nelson

Corvallis, Oregon

First Alternative Co-Op