



Maplebear Inc. d/b/a Instacart
50 Beale Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105

March 15, 2023

The Honorable Courtney Neron
Chair, Education Committee
900 Court St NE,
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SUPPORT: HB 3030 - Universal School Meals

Dear Chair Neron:

On behalf of Instacart, this letter is to express our support for HB 3030 - Universal School Meals. For the past decade, Instacart has harnessed the power of technology to provide grocery delivery to families across the country, and today we serve communities in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Canada. In Oregon, Instacart partners with retailers across the state, helping them grow their businesses, serve their customers, and support their local communities. At Instacart, we believe everyone should have access to nutritious foods, and recognize how our technology plays an increasingly important role in bridging the food access gap. Instacart works closely with our retail partners to gain the necessary federal certification to accept EBT SNAP and proudly offers SNAP online ordering and delivery on the Instacart platform across stores in Oregon.

Last September, in close coordination with the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, we were proud to launch Instacart Health, a sweeping new initiative with a long-term focus on improving nutrition security, making healthy eating easier, and scaling food as medicine programs. As part of this launch, we developed the [Instacart Health Policy Agenda](#) and committed to supporting increased access to nutritious food by advocating for policies that reduce hunger in Oregon and nationwide. Ensuring equitable access to nutritious food is at the heart of Instacart's mission, and that's why we support HB 3030.

HB 3030 establishes the "Healthy School Meals for All Task Force" to design and recommend how Oregon can offer universal school meals, as well as allowing Oregon to adapt to future federal changes on expanding access to free school meals. During the COVID-19 pandemic the federal government provided universal school meals to children nationwide, but this program ended in June 2022. Families with lower incomes have since struggled to ensure their children receive adequate nutrition, and we know that providing children nutritious foods in schools – without the stigmas traditionally associated with having to disclose a family's income or carrying a meal debt – is essential. In fact, according to several academic studies, participation in school meals is linked to a number of benefits including improving academic achievement, standardized test scores, and cognitive function.^{1,2,3} The need for universal school meals has been further exacerbated with the ending of the pandemic emergency SNAP allotments earlier this month, with children losing an average of \$90 per month in food assistance benefits.

¹ Vaisman N, Voet H, Akivis A, Vakil E. Effect of breakfast timing on the cognitive functions of elementary school students. Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med. 1996 Oct;150(10):1089-92. doi: 10.1001/archpedi.1996.02170350091016.

² Ptomey LT, Steger FL, Schubert MM, Lee J, Willis EA, Sullivan DK, Szabo-Reed AN, Washburn RA, Donnelly JE. Breakfast Intake and Composition Is Associated with Superior Academic Achievement in Elementary Schoolchildren. J Am Coll Nutr. 2016 May-Jun;35(4):326-33. doi: 10.1080/07315724.2015.1048381.

³ David E. Frisvold, Nutrition and cognitive achievement: An evaluation of the School Breakfast Program, Journal of Public Economics. 2015. 124:91-104



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Oregon has been a leader in expanding access to school meals, and this is an important step to creating permanent change.

HB 3030 helps create a world where everyone has access to nutritious food. We encourage you to vote yes on this legislation and move it to the floor for a vote. Your hard work and dedication to this issue are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CH", is positioned above the typed name.

Catherine Holm
Deputy Manager, Western Region
Maplebar Inc. d/b/a Instacart