

Testimony for Senate Bill 5506
Joint Committee on Ways & Means
Submitted by Molly Notarianni, NE Portland Resident
April 6, 2023

Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Molly Notarianni. I am a resident of the Cully neighborhood in Northeast Portland and I am writing to request your support for HB 2728.

HB 2728 supports the expansion of **Double Up Food Bucks Oregon (DUFB)**, a SNAP incentive program with a proven record of success. For every dollar spent on SNAP-eligible foods at participating farmers markets, CSAs, farm stands, and grocery stores across the state, shoppers will receive a dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

The Double Up Food Bucks program is important to me because it empowers my neighbors to access more of the nutritious and farm-fresh fruits and veggies that they want, while giving Oregon's small family farmers a financial boost and supporting local economies! It's a triple win, and it changes lives in my community.

The cost of food has increased by over 10% in 2022, impacting communities already facing disparities the hardest. Additionally, February was the final month of COVID-era emergency allotments, making March the first time since April 2020 that most Oregon SNAP users only received their regular SNAP benefits. As families navigate the dual challenges of rising food costs and decreasing SNAP benefits, programs with a proven track record of success like Double Up Food Bucks are more important than ever.

Last year there were 78 farmers markets in 27 Oregon counties who offered DUFB, including almost 30 sites in the Portland Metro area. **Producers at those farmers markets reported more than \$3 Million in combined SNAP and DUFB sales!** That's an extra \$3 Million going directly into the pockets of local farmers and local communities.

Despite DUFB's success, SNAP matching programs currently exist at only two thirds of Oregon's farmers markets. This leaves many farmers markets – including many in rural areas - without any SNAP incentive program. One quarter of Oregon's farmers markets do not even have the necessary equipment in place to accept SNAP. Fully funding HB 2728 would support the expansion of DUFB to all 120 farmers markets in the state. Individualized technical assistance

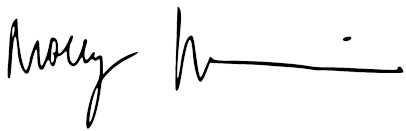
will help markets who are not currently registered to accept SNAP develop the necessary tracking and accounting systems and obtain the required technology.

With additional continued funding, the Double up Food Bucks program can maintain services at existing sites while expanding to new regions of the state, improving access to fresh, local fruits and vegetables for all Oregon SNAP participants. Without continued funding, the program will be forced to drastically limit the number of participating sites in the next biennium.

Double Up Food Bucks is a perfect investment as we work to stabilize Oregon post-pandemic, serving an immediate need of feeding people while investing in local farmers and local economies

I ask you to support HB 2728, and to fully fund the bill before the Oregon Legislature adjourns.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Molly Notarianni". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Molly Notarianni
Portland, Oregon