

The Double Up Food Bucks (DUFEB) program (HB 2728) is a vital resource for needy families, particularly during economic hardship and food insecurity. The program allows participants to use their SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at participating farmers' markets and grocery stores, doubling the value of their benefits and making healthy food more accessible and affordable.

The low-income families in the Arab community are benefited from the DUFF as it considers an excellent resource for many with low-income

The DUFEB program supports local farmers by providing a reliable market for their produce. This, in turn, helps to spur economic development in rural areas and support local agriculture.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted food insecurity and access to healthy food, particularly for vulnerable populations such as low-income families and communities of color. Inflation has also made it more difficult for families to afford nutritious food. The DUFEB program has been a critical resource for these communities during these challenging times.

Adding funding for the DUFEB program will help to expand access to fresh produce for families across the state. This funding will allow the program to serve more families, support more farmers, and contribute to the economic development of rural communities.

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.

Aras Dezay