



To: House Committee on Human Services and Housing
From: Matt Newell-Ching, Public Affairs Director
RE: Please adopt amendments and vote YES on Bills to Close Nutrition Gaps in WIC:
HB 2626 and HB 2639
Date: February 27, 2019

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon believes that all Oregonians have the right to be free from hunger. Our mission is to connect Oregonians to affordable, nutritious, and culturally-appropriate food. This includes advocating for policies that address hunger and its root causes.

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon Asks for your "Aye" vote to close important nutrition gaps for families and kids participating in the WIC program: HB 2626 and HB 2639 with accompanying amendments.

We want to draw your attention to two small but important amendments that would both clarify the intent and make the bills work better in practice for kids and families:

- [HB 2639](#) would expand WIC nutrition benefits until child enters kindergarten (currently ends at 5th birthday).
The -1 amendment clarifies that WIC nutrition benefits would apply to kids through when they start school, to include instances when kids enter school at a grade higher than kindergarten. This is to address a concern raised during the committee hearing on January 30.
- [HB 2626](#) would expand WIC nutrition benefits for women until their child is 24 months old (currently ends at 6 or 12 months).
The -1 amendment clarifies that the purpose of the bill is to extend nutrition benefits to *moms* through a child's second birthday. As-written, the bill extends benefits to kids, but kids are already eligible for benefits with federal funds.

Thank you, and we urge an "Aye" vote on HB 2626 and HB 2639 and adoption of amendments.

[\(original testimony on 1/30/19\)](#)