



**UPSTREAM**  
PUBLIC HEALTH

**To: Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery**

**Meeting Date: February 2, 2021**

**Re: SB 555**

Dear Chair Gelser, Vice-Chair Anderson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lillie Manvel, and I am the Executive Director at Upstream Public Health in Portland, Oregon and am a resident of Salem, Oregon. I am writing in support of SB555 which will expand SNAP benefits for Oregonians giving them better access to healthy foods because:

**Kids will win.**

Research shows that children's nutritional needs must be met primarily through their diets and that healthy eating patterns are associated with positive health outcomes. Eating a variety of fruits and vegetables is a key recommendation of the 2015-2020 USDA Dietary Guidelines, and innovative approaches to increasing food access are an essential part of improving population health. Nearly half of SNAP recipients nationwide are children, and with 90% of SNAP customers in Oregon reporting that Double Up Food Bucks increased their fruit and vegetable purchases, this program is a proven way to get fresh, local whole foods onto the plates of the littlest low-income Oregonians.

**Farmers will grow stronger.**

Double Up Food Bucks increases the reach of Oregon's locally grown foods. Nearly 70 percent of farmers reported making more money with Double Up Food Bucks. Agriculture plays a vital role in Oregon's economy, supporting the families that own nearly all of Oregon's farms, the 40% of farmers who are women, and the countless other businesses and individuals who benefit from a booming farm sector. Funding that supports this program supports Oregon's farmers. When farmers thrive, all of Oregon thrives.

**Oregon will lead the nation.**

Oregon is a national leader in systems reform that improves the lives and well-being of its residents. If Oregon provides funding to assist its SNAP recipients in purchasing fruits and vegetables, the state will join a handful of others at the forefront of a growing national movement to leverage federal funds that prioritize healthy eating in communities.

In this time of so much uncertainty and economic inequality, extending this safety-net will make a big difference with very little financial impact on the state. And our kids win with this critical investment in them.

Thank you very much for considering my testimony today.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to Oregonians.

Lillie Manvel  
Salem, OR