

Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health, & Recovery Oregon State Capitol 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

February 1, 2021

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of FoodCorps in strong support of SB 440 and SB 555. I urge your support as well.

SB 440 and SB 555 support the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon, a SNAP incentive program with a proven record of success. For every dollar spent on SNAP-eligible foods at participating farmers markets, farm share programs, and grocery stores across the state, shoppers will receive a dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

As an organization that supports efforts to incorporate healthy, local food into school meals, we know that increasing access to healthy food is vital for ensuring kids' physical, emotional and social well-being. While school meals are crucial in feeding kids, not all families can easily and safely access school meals, especially during the COVID-19 Pandemic. SNAP is another vital resource families rely on to get the nourishment they need during these uncertain times. SNAP not only feeds families and kids, it strengthens local economies, especially when incentivized through matching programs like Double Up Food Bucks. Double Up Food Bucks is a critical resource for Oregonians suffering from food insecurity exacerbated by the economic crisis, and will support Oregon's farmers in recovering after losing other markets, such as restaurant sales, due to COVID-19.

Please support SB 440 and SB 555, for the health of Oregon's children, families, farmers and communities.

Sincerely,

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Aaron Poplack, Associate Director of Oregon Programs, FoodCorps

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