

Chair Geiser and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for sponsoring this important senate bill. All too often we hear people say that they can't afford to purchase high quality foods that includes fresh fruit and vegetables. And, I ask, how can we not afford to get and keep our SNAP recipients on a healthy eating trajectory. That includes fresh fruits and vegetables from our local farmers and farmers markets. While canned foods from Dollar General may be part of the budget, they are not a substitute for establishing sustainable and healthier eating habits. Therefore, I support the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon, a SNAP program that will have positive economic benefits for participating farmers markets, share programs ,and grocery stores throughout Oregon. Many low income families may not even realize the exponential health affects of the program, and the benefits for all members of the community. Many rural communities would benefit, as the expansion assists the farmers, the transportation to the stores, and the availability of healthier options, especially for younger family members. Early access to healthier eating options will increase the chances of leading a healthier life. It has the potential to increase awareness, decrease obesity, and stem the tide of type 2 diabetes. It may even increase awareness about the source of food and how it's linked to the positive and negative health habits were form as adults. To that end, I encourage your support for this bill Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Paula M Bue
Astoria Oregon