

Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee,

My name is McKayla Hoffman, and I am a current intern for the American Heart Association. I am also a student of Public Health at Oregon State University in Corvallis. As a college student who has previously struggled with access to healthy foods, as well as obtaining sufficient amounts of food, I am writing to request your support for **SB 440 & 555**.

SB 555 and SB 440 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.

The experience of college and attending a university should not be based on wondering where your next meal is going to come from. Far too many students in my community, myself included, have skipped meals, sleeping in order to do so, due to the fact that food has been too expensive and inaccessible. When able to purchase groceries, fresh and healthy foods are much more pricey compared to boxed and processed meals. As a result, our diets are inadequate and barely filling. In times such as these, where jobs are minimized and local grocery stores have limited hours and selections, food insecurity is even higher. SNAP recipients, including families and college students in the community, have the opportunity to benefit from the support of expanding Double Up Food Bucks. This population would benefit, by receiving twice the amount to spend on healthy fruits and vegetables. Along with this, farmers and other employees will be granted work in such uncertain times.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

McKayla Hoffman

Corvallis