

TO: House Committee on Human Services
FROM: Matt Newell-Ching, Public Policy Manager, Oregon Food Bank
RE: Support for HB 4088
DATE: February 3, 2022



Chair Williams and Members of the Committee,

Oregon Food Bank's mission is to end hunger and its root causes. We know that people experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, and seniors often face particular challenges accessing food, even with participation in SNAP. For example, most community members experiencing homelessness lack a kitchen in which to prepare food.

We urge support for HB 4088 to convene a workgroup to research and plan for the implementation of the SNAP Restaurant Meals Program in Oregon. The program is a federal option that allows certain community members eligible for SNAP who experience homelessness, live with disabilities, and are seniors to purchase hot meals at qualifying restaurants.

We are particularly supportive of the provision to ensure the workgroup includes people who have lived experiences with SNAP. We believe the best solutions center the experiences of people with lived expertise of problems.

We appreciate the work of Rep Campos and ODHS to bring this proposal forward. Oregon Food Bank offers our support and participation in the workgroup when it convenes. **We urge a "yes" vote on HB 4088.**

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