

House Committee on Human Services

Testimony in support of HB 4088

February 3, 2022

Chair Williams, Vice-Chairs Ruiz & Scharf, Representatives Nelson, Noble, Owens, Schouten

For the record, my name is Jackie Leung and I am Co-Chair of the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA). On behalf of the commission, I am writing a letter in support of HB 4088, which directs ODHS to convene a workgroup to research and plan for the implementation of the Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) for SNAP recipients who are elders, people with disabilities, and houseless people.

1. OCAPIA's role is to work toward economic, social, political, and legal equity for Oregon's Asian and Pacific Islander population. We do this through advocacy, public policy research, leadership development, and partnerships.
2. In our statutory role of bringing equity focus and community voice into Oregon policy making, OCAPIA strongly supports HB 4088.

The restrictions from SNAP currently only allow for the purchase of cold or deli foods from grocery chains. However, HB 4088 would enable a work group to examine the implementation of RMP for SNAP recipients in Oregon. RMP would permit elderly, disabled, and houseless SNAP recipients and their partners to use EBT cards to purchase prepared meals at participating restaurants. This bill is not novel, as six other states have similar laws

**Oregon Commission on
Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs**

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in place that allow SNAP users to eat at restaurants. This bill presents a logical and human-centered solution to improve the lives of many of Oregon's most vulnerable residents.

At a time when our local restaurants are hurting due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and SNAP recipients unequivocally deserve access to convenient, prepared meals, OCAPIA enthusiastically supports HB 4088, to enable a work study to explore the process of expanding SNAP access to Oregon residents to purchase foods that would not only benefit the SNAP recipient, but also the Oregon businesses who accept SNAP for payment.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jaqueline Leung". The ink is a light grey or blue color.

Co-Chair Oregon Commission on
Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

