

Submitter: Hannah Joseph
On Behalf Of: Seed to Table Oregon
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services
Measure: HB2728

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Hannah Joseph. I am the Program Director for Seed to Table Oregon, a non-profit education farm in Sisters. I am writing to request your support for HB 2728.

HB 2728 supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon, a SNAP matching program with a proven record of success. For every dollar spent on SNAP-eligible foods at participating farmers markets, farm stands, CSA programs, and grocery stores across the state, shoppers will receive an additional dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

This program is important to me because it greatly increases how many local residents can access our fresh produce, both through our CSA Produce Share and at the Sisters Farmers Market. Local, organic foods can often come at a price premium, which doesn't allow all of our community to access these nutrient-dense foods. The Double Up Food Bucks program has been an incredible way to make out vegetables available to a greater percentage of the community. We believe that everyone has a right to fresh, delicious, nutritious foods and that people deserve to choose which foods they want. While we have a long way to go on this, Double Up Food Bucks certainly makes this more possible.

Double Up Food Bucks helps food insecure families bring home more nutritious fruits and veggies, while also supporting our nonprofit farm and local vendors at the farmers market. This program helps spur crucial economic development in rural Oregon.

The Sisters Farmers Market was able to accept SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks for the first time in 2021, and the program has gained awareness and excitement among community members. As rising inflation restricts community members' budgets more and more, this program is crucial to support a healthy community and a thriving local economy.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.
Hannah Joseph, Sisters, OR