

Submitter: Jean Kennedy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2728

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jean Kennedy, I am a farmer, and board member of the Veneta Downtown farmers market in Veneta Oregon. As a long time participant I have seen the before and after of the DUFB program. I have seen a substantial increase in sales since the program has been in force. We see many more Snap participants than ever and , 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 gives our snap shoppers the opportunity to purchase more fresh fruit and vegetables with their snap benefits. Many consumers have stated how much they appreciate the ability to have more Choice and to add variety to their families meals.

I'm sure you are aware of rising food costs, these families are some of the most vulnerable and good nutrition is important, especially for children. I also love this program because it directly supports our local economy. We have families that farm and bring their children to market. The money they earn is directly spent in our community. When Market ends many of the vendors go directly to buy feed for their animals or groceries for their families. I know this because I am one of the people doing this. Having this extra avenue to earn a few more dollars each week makes a huge impact for my family. Many of us are helping other family members and this adds to our financial burden. While we we willingly do this, Having more income helps us help them. Thank for taking the Time to read this.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Jean Kennedy, Walton Oregon