

Submitter: Soren Deiss

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2728

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Soren Deiss, I am a college student and produce worker in Corvallis. 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, as I've been working in produce for over a year now, I've realized just how important it is to provide my community with access to affordable, organic, and sustainable produce. As a college student, I'm constantly thinking about what food I'm going to put on the table, whether or not it will meet my daily nutritional needs, and if it's going to be in my budget. I'm so thankful to have access to SNAP programs as it is, but in addition, double up food bucks significantly reduces these stress factors in my life, and I find great comfort in knowing I'm eating food grown locally. Especially in a college town, where a lot of my friends and peers share similar concerns and values, I see no reason why a program like this should not continue. Food is a human right, and whatever we can do to make it accessible for our low-income residents, like myself, is a step in the right direction for the state of Oregon.

These past few years have been challenging. The cost of food increased by over 10% in 2022, which impacted communities already facing disparities the hardest. Many Oregonians will be losing pandemic-related food assistance after this month. Double Up Food Bucks is one important way we can support community members struggling to afford food, invest in Oregon's farmers, and support local economies.

Passing HB 2728 would mean that more Oregonians participating in SNAP would have access to fruits and vegetables. It means more grocery stores, farmers markets, and more CSAs in more corners of the state can participate.

I urge your support for HB 2728.

Soren Deiss

Corvallis, OR 97333
First Alternative Food Co-op