

Submitter: Kaylee Harrison

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2728

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kaylee Harrison. I am a resident in Philomath. 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 a 23 year old single mother to a 2 year old, I rely heavily on my SNAP benefits to continue to provide my child and myself with nutritious foods like fresh, local, and organic produce despite being on a tighter budget. The double up food bucks program does a great job at providing lower income families with greater access to these types of foods that have generally been reserved for wealthier families. With this being the last month I will receive any extra pandemic related food assistance, I will be relying even more on double up food bucks than I have previously. I urge you to keep this program going as the benefits of it have already created such a huge impact on the wellbeing of many individuals such as myself and my daughter.

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.

Kaylee

[Philomath]