

OREGON HUNGER TASK FORCE

Creating Policies for a Hunger-Free Oregon

February 6, 2023

To: House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services
From: Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Re: Support for HB 2728

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

My name is Ames Kessler-Templin and I am submitting testimony in support of HB 2728 on behalf of the Oregon Hunger Task Force (OHTF). Since 1989, OHTF has worked as a statewide advocate for Oregonians who are hungry or at risk of hunger. OHTF works collaboratively with stakeholders throughout Oregon to promote community awareness, compile research, and develop proposals for government action.

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.

The experience of hunger, though always urgent, has become more widespread than ever before. In Oregon, an estimated 407,840 people are facing hunger. According to Feeding America, \$884,189,650 distributed through SNAP generated \$1,503,122,406 in economic activity,¹ showing that strengthening access to food also strengthens our economy.

We urge your support of HB 2728 to strengthen access to nutritious foods by expanding Double Up Food Bucks. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Ames Kessler-Templin

¹ <https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/oregon>