



February 6, 2023

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the chance to submit testimony on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association. ONA is Oregon's oldest and largest nursing union and professional association, and we are proud to represent 15,000 health care providers, including RNs, advanced practice nurses, and allied health workers. Our members are very supportive of House Bill 2728 and appreciate your consideration of this bill.

ONA is deeply committed to investing in programs that will improve the health of Oregonians. Nurses, specifically those in public health, frequently screen patients for hunger and food insecurity, work with those who are enrolled in federal nutrition programs like WIC, and provide nutrition education. Unfortunately, our public health nurses see first-hand that many Oregonians are not getting enough to eat, much less enough servings of fruits and vegetables: one in ten Oregonians face hunger, including one in eight children.¹ Not only does inadequate nutrition result in poorer quality of life, but it also increases the risk of various health problems, including heart disease, strokes, diabetes, among other serious concerns.²

By increasing access to locally grown, fresh fruits and vegetables, HB 2728 is helping all Oregonians struggling with food insecurity to get the nutrition they need. ONA urges a yes vote on HB 2728.

Sincerely,

Emerson Hamlin

Political Organizer, Oregon Nurses Association

¹ *Hunger in Oregon*. Feeding America. (2023). Retrieved February 4, 2023, from <https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/oregon#:~:text=In%20Oregon%2C%20407%2C840%20people%20are,of%20them%20114%2C460%20are%20children.&text=face%20hunger,to%20meet%20their%20food%20needs>.

² *Healthy Food, Healthy Oregon*. (2022). Retrieved February 4, 2023, from <https://www.heart.org/en/affiliates/oregon-local/healthy-food-healthy-oregon>