

February 6, 2023

Chair Reynolds & members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services,

For the record my name is Ali Ibrahim and I am the Executive Director of Somali Oregon Service Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to underserved communities in Oregon. I served as a Double Up Ambassador with Oregon Food Bank from 2021-2022. I am from Portland, Oregon. I am here to support HB 2728 to expand the Double up Food Bucks Oregon, Snap matching program with a proven record of success

This program is important to me because it assists low-income families economically and to get healthy food. It also helps to build relationships between communities, local groceries and farmer markets.

Yadanar Halal Market is a good example, where different communities can get culturally appropriate produce and food items. This program also encourages local community farmers for example Yadanar Halal grocery worked with Ali Johar, a young farmer from the Rohingya community, who was able to sell his fresh vegetables to the market which are then eligible for the Double Up match.

This program is important to me because it helps not only the low-income families but many families who are impacted by the COVID-19. DUFEB has played a great role in helping these families during this economic crisis.

With Covid19 Snap assistance ending, families will need more help from DUFEB and I would like to see this program expand and sustain in the long term. This program has supported my community to have access to fresh produce and the cultural foods they want and need.

Thank you members of the committee and I appreciate your consideration and support of the Double Up Food Bucks program. I ask for your support for HB 2728.

Ali Ibrahim  
Executive Director  
Somali Oregon Service Center