



Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Advocating for Equity and Diversity throughout Oregon

Dear Chair Reynolds, Vice Chairs Nguyen and Scharf, and Members of the House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services:

For the record, my name is Jackie Leung, Co-Chair with the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA). OCAPIA works for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal, and political equity for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in the state of Oregon and to maintain a continuing assessment of issues and needs confronting Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in this state. OCAPIA has several statutory duties, all of which revolve around advocacy and equity.

I am writing to you in regards to HB 2728, which supports the expansion of the Double Up Food Bucks Oregon program. Double Up Food Bucks Oregon is a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) matching program and has had a proven record of success. For every dollar spent at SNAP-eligible food at participating farmer's markets, farm stands, CSAs, and grocery stores in the state, shoppers receive an additional dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

The number of Oregon residents experiencing hunger has increased exponentially in the past three years. Since the pandemic, the Oregon Food Bank system has reported that the number of people seeking assistance increased from 863,000 to 1.7 million in 2020, and remained high at 1.2 million in 2021.¹

The participating locations have continued to expand and now cover all parts of Oregon, from Eastern Oregon (La Grande, Union County) to the Willamette Valley (Salem, Silverton, Marion County), Southern Oregon (Grants Pass, Josephine County).² Moving HB 2728 forward will enable local farmers and markets to expand their service, and cover more Oregon residents with the Double Up Food Bucks Oregon program.

We urge you to support HB 2728 to provide all Oregon residents the opportunity to have increased access to quality and nutritious locally grown food. Doing so will support local farmers and business owners.

Sincerely,

Jackie Leung

Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

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1. Miller, E. 2022, July 9. Hunger Remains a Constant Concern for Kids and Adults in Oregon. *OPB*.
<https://www.opb.org/article/2022/07/09/hunger-remains-a-constant-concern-for-kids-and-adults-across-oregon/>
2. 2023 List of Participating Vendors for the Double Up Food Bucks program.
<https://doubleuporegon.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/DUFB-Site-List-1.9.23.pdf>



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