

Submitter: Bennett Battaile

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2728

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

I volunteer weekly at the Hillsdale farmers' market in SW Portland. This involves answering questions about the the Double Up Food Bucks program, distributing Double Up cards along with the SNAP benefits tokens, and crediting the farmers at the end of the day with the cards they've honored. Without exception the SNAP recipients and farmers are visibly boosted by the DUFB program. I assume this is because the SNAP recipients can stretch their food budget while participating in this community event, and the farmers make more sales. I'm pretty sure that without the DUFB program we would see far fewer SNAP recipients shopping at the market.

I would like to stress that this is more than a mere financial benefit for all; it includes nutrition, social interactions, and mutual understanding between farmers and our urban clientele. Every time I hand people DUFB cards it is making them visibly happier, probably better nourished, and I believe making the community stronger. All this while supporting small farms. DUFB is a program with a lot of benefits and I would like to see it continued or even expanded.

Regards,
Bennett Battaile
Portland