

Submitter: Richard Pedersen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Measure: HB2728

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rich Pedersen. This program is important to me because I see first hand how much it helps our small coastal community. Furthermore, even as a relatively well-paid military member, I am feeling the strain of rising food costs. I don't utilize SNAP, but I have many civilian friends that rely on it.

These past few years have been challenging. The cost of food increased by over 10% in 2022, which impacted communities already facing disparities the hardest. Many Oregonians will be losing pandemic-related food assistance after this month. Double Up Food Bucks is one important way we can support community members struggling to afford food, invest in Oregon's farmers, and support local economies.

Passing HB 2728 would mean that more Oregonians participating in SNAP would have access to fruits and vegetables. It means more grocery stores, farmers markets, and more CSAs in more corners of the state can participate.

I urge your support for HB 2728.

Rich Pedersen

Astoria

Board Member, North Coast Food Web