



April 8, 2023

To: Joint Committee on Ways & Means
From: Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Re: Support for HB 2728

Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ames Kessler-Templin and I am submitting testimony in support of HB 2728 on behalf of Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon (PHFO). PHFO is a statewide anti-poverty advocacy organization with a small staff of under 15 members. We understand that leadership comes from those with lived experience and that hunger and poverty do not exist on their own, but rather a result of overlapping systems of oppression that create layers of privilege and inequity. Our values and work are centered in creating systemic changes to end hunger. At PHFO, we do not seek to just feed our neighbors, we seek our shared liberation from systems of oppression, such as racism, classism, cissexism and other forms of violence, which will allow all to thrive. We believe every Oregonian deserves to feel safe and be treated with dignity.

HB 2728 supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon, a SNAP matching program with a proven record of success. For every dollar spent on SNAP-eligible foods at participating farmers markets, farm stands, CSA programs, and grocery stores across the state, shoppers will receive an additional dollar to spend on Oregon-grown fruits and vegetables.

We know from years of holding conversation with community that Double Up Food Bucks has made it easier for people to afford the food that's most desired, and now is the time for the state to invest in leveraging this community grown response to food insecurity.

We urge your support of HB 2728 to strengthen access to nutritious foods by expanding Double Up Food Bucks. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ames Kessler-Templin
Legislative Strategist
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon