

Submitter: Malorie Harshaw-Hess  
On Behalf Of: Peoples Food Co-op  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee,

My name is Malorie Harshaw-Hess. I am the Operations Manager at People's Food Co-op in Portland. I am writing to request your support for HB 2728. HB 2728 supports the expansion of Double Up Food Bucks Oregon, a SNAP incentive program which promotes healthy food choices.

This program is important because it helps community members, it helps local farmers and produce vendors, and it helps our overall local economy. Our community members benefit by having increased access to healthful food. DUFB doubles the spending power of SNAP benefits recipients when they purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. As participation in this program increases, produce sales across the state will increase thereby benefiting local growers and produce merchants. By increasing SNAP recipients spending power, this will lead to an overall increase in commerce in our local economy.

With inflation impacting food prices and pandemic-related supplemental SNAP benefits ending, Double Up Food Bucks Oregon is now more important than ever, and expanding this program's reach and impact can only benefit Oregon. 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.

Malorie Harshaw-Hess  
Portland  
People's Food Co-op