

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of SB 1585

Monday, February 5, 2024

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services.

I am writing to express my strong support for the lifting of the prohibition on the use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) dollars to purchase hot food. This change would significantly improve the quality of life for many vulnerable Oregonians, including people with disabilities, seniors, and homeless individuals.

These individuals often face significant barriers to preparing meals. For example, people with disabilities and seniors may struggle with the physical tasks of cooking, while homeless individuals often lack access to kitchen facilities altogether. Allowing SNAP dollars to be used for hot food purchases would provide these individuals with more accessible and nutritious meal options.

Fully implementing the federal Restaurant Meals Program in addition to other applicable programs identified through the task force is not a matter of allowing convenience, but a crucial step towards ensuring that all Oregonians, regardless of their circumstances, have access to the nutrition they need to thrive. I urge you to consider this change and the profound impact it could have on our most vulnerable community members.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge your support and passage of the bill from the committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron".

Representative Courtney Neron
House District 26
Wilsonville, including the Charbonneau district, King City, Sherwood,
Tigard/Bull Mountain, and Parrett Mountain