

Submitter: Lisa Herbert

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB611

I am the Executive Director of a community farmers market in Southeast Portland. We strive to increase fresh food access to our diverse community while supporting local farmers and our local economy. This bill can make an incredible impact toward increasing food access in our neighborhood. Our market accepts and matches SNAP benefits, allowing folks to stretch their benefits and buy more fresh fruits and vegetables from local farms. In 2024 alone, over \$70,000 of SNAP benefits were spent at our market and we distributed \$60,000 in matching currency. There are so many more people who qualify for SNAP and would benefit from this program if they weren't excluded due to immigration status. Everyone deserves to have access to healthy, culturally appropriate foods, supporting this bill will be a first step in making this a reality.