

Submitter: Amanda Martin-Tully
On Behalf Of: Funding the Double Up Food Bucks program
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

My name is Amanda Grace Martin - Tully, and while I have not personally used the Double Up Food Bucks program, I have seen firsthand the profound impact it has on individuals, families, and small businesses in my community. As someone who has spent years working in financial services, community engagement, and small business support, I understand both the necessity and the ripple effect of accessible, nutritious food.

This program isn't just about helping people afford fresh produce—it's about dignity, health, and local economic sustainability. When we match EBT dollars at farmers markets and co-ops, we are not only ensuring that families have access to high-quality, nutritious food, but we are also directly supporting the farmers, vendors, and small businesses that make our local food systems thrive. It's a reinforcement of mutual support: when our farmers succeed, our communities are healthier. When our communities are healthier, they are stronger.

I have seen too many people forced to choose between affordability and nutrition, between stretching their dollars and eating well. Doubling Up Food Bucks removes that impossible choice, empowering people to feed their families fresh, wholesome meals without sacrificing other necessities. It also ensures that the money stays in the local economy, benefiting the farmers and businesses that are the backbone of our food systems. This isn't just a financial investment—it's a moral one.

I strongly urge continued and expanded funding for this program. Supporting local food access is one of the most effective ways to invest in the well-being of our communities, and the need has never been greater. We have an opportunity to create a system where everyone—regardless of income—has access to healthy food and where local growers and small businesses are uplifted in the process.

Thank you for your time and consideration.