

Submitter: Aaron Douglas

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5526

Dear Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services:

My name is Aaron Douglas, and I am a concerned resident of Portland. I am reaching out to express my strong support for the Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB) program within the Department of Human Services agency budget (SB 5526). Although I do not personally participate in this program, I believe in its value and the positive impact it has on our community.

The Self-sufficiency component of SB 5526 is critical for continuing the Double Up Food Bucks program in Oregon, which incentivizes SNAP recipients to purchase fresh, local fruits and vegetables. For every dollar spent on SNAP-eligible foods at participating farmers' markets, grocery stores, and farm share programs, shoppers receive an additional dollar to spend on Oregon-grown produce. This initiative has a proven track record of success in promoting healthier eating habits and supporting local agriculture.

My support for this program is rooted in the understanding that rising food costs have significantly impacted families in our community. Many of our neighbors struggle to afford nutritious food, and programs like DUFB help to alleviate this burden. By enabling families to bring home more fruits and vegetables, we can improve their overall health and well-being.

Furthermore, the DUFB program is not just beneficial for families; it also provides farmers with increased sales opportunities. This, in turn, helps to spur economic development in rural Oregon, ensuring that our local agricultural community thrives. I have seen firsthand how critical these initiatives are for fostering strong, resilient local economies.

Additionally, the state funding allocated in 2023 made a noticeable difference in our community. Many farmers markets, including those in our area, were able to offer the DUFB program for the first time, providing a valuable resource to our residents. This has not only encouraged healthier eating but has also generated increased sales for local farmers.

I urge you to fully fund the Double Up Food Bucks program within the Department of Human Services agency budget (SB 5526) before the Oregon Legislature adjourns. Supporting this program is an investment in the health of our families, the prosperity

of our farmers, and the vitality of our economy. Thank you for your consideration and your dedicated service to our community.

Sincerely,  
Aaron Kirk Douglas