



Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force 2005 Legislative Agenda

Family Economic Stability ❖ Community Food Security Federal & Emergency Food Programs

Donalda Dodson, Chair
Oregon Child Development
Coalition

Rep. Jackie Dingfelder
At large member

Joyce Dougherty
Oregon Dept. of Education

Jonathan Enz
Clergy

Pat Farr
Food For Lane County

Cassandra Garrison
Oregon Food Bank

Norene Goplen
Oregon Faith Roundtable
Against Hunger

Lowell Greathouse
United Way of Columbia-
Willamette

Phillip Kennedy-Wong
Ecumenical Ministries of OR

Cecilia Lyons
Housing & Community Services

Lauren Mitchell
DHS - Seniors and People with
Disabilities

Rep. Donna Nelson

Rep. Diane Rosenbaum

Carolyn Ross
DHS - Children, Adults &
Families

Senator Frank Shields

Senator Bruce Starr

Paul Sunderland
OSU Extension Service

Dan Sundseth
US Dept. of Agriculture

Sharon Thornberry
OFB Statewide Gleaning

Cliff Trow
Private Citizen

Wendy VanElverdinghe
Community Action
Directors of Oregon

Sue Woodbury
DHS - Women, Infants and
Children (WIC)

Staff:

Patti Whitney-Wise,
Executive Director
Tammy Handrich, Outreach VISTA
Catriona Madill, Project Coord.
Nancy Weed, Food Stamp
Outreach Coordinator
Holly Wilkalis, Program Coord.

FAMILY ECONOMIC STABILITY

HB 3110 - Create a Renters' Tax Credit: Parallel Oregon's Elderly Rental Assistance program to include more low-income households. *Reps. Dave Hunt (D) Milwaukie and Debi Farr (R) Eugene.*

Status: Heard in House Revenue on April 4. Subcommittee formed to decide on one significant tax credit for low-income families to move forward. HB 2046, below, chosen to move forward.

HB 2046 - Expand the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC): make the EITC refundable and increase the value to eliminate state taxes for people living below the federal poverty level. *House Revenue Committee.*

Status: Heard in House Revenue in early March. Second hearing on April 20. Work Session April 26. Refundable and 5% in 2007, 7.5% in 2008, and 10% in 2009 forward. Sent to the House floor.

Increase educational opportunities for low-income families: Increase funding for the Oregon Opportunity Grant program. *Governor's Budget,*

Status: Governor's budget includes an increase of \$47.2 million, but co-chairs cut in half to stop tuition increases.

and

SB 768 - Implement "Parents as Scholars" in the Department of Human Services. *Senate Education and Workforce Committee.*

Status: Passed Senate Education and Workforce Committee. Now in Ways and Means. Unusually large fiscal \$1.8 million. Working on paring down fiscal and having Ways and Means ask questions about why never implemented in budget hearings.

SB 545 - Strengthen Rules for Payday Loans: Increase loan term to a minimum of 31 days and cap interest at 15% of the principal, similar to the cap at Pawn Shops. *Senate Commerce Committee.* (Also **HB 2761**).

Status: Heard in Senate Commerce Committee on March 15. Field Hearing in Eugene, Oregon on April 14. Work session on April 28. 31 days eliminated and other amendments weakening the bill. Sent to the Senate floor.

Maintain and Strengthen Safety Net Programs: Restore funding for General Assistance, Emergency Assistance, Job Support and Retention Services to help stabilize family members.

Status: Cut in Governor's budget and both co-chair budgets. April Advocacy Alert focuses on calls. EMO working on GA/EA fact sheet; OFB working on Job Support fact sheet. Joint sign-on letters to circulate.

COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY

SB 289 - Expand WIC/Farmers' Market Coupons: Increase state funds by \$49,000 to access additional federal funds to expand to roadside stands and provide more vouchers to families on the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. *Senate General Government Committee.*

Status: Passed Senate Human Services Committee.. Now in Ways and Means.

FEDERAL & EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAMS

SB 467 - Expand Summer Food Support: Support the Oregon Department of Education policy option package to provide 5 cents in state funds for every summer lunch served by introducing companion legislation. *Sen. Ryan Deckert (D) Beaverton and Rep. Debi Farr (R) Eugene*

Status: Passed Senate Education Committee. Now in Ways and Means.

Protect Funds for Oregon Food Bank Statewide Network: Maintain and, to the extent possible, increase the contribution of state funds to the Oregon Food Bank Statewide Network. *Governor's Budget*

Status: Fully funded with small cost-of-living increase in Governor's Budget and Co-chairs budgets