



Senate Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources

RE: Support for ESHB 2238, concerning statewide food security

February 17, 2026

Chair Chapman, members of the committee,

On behalf of the Northwest Kidney Council, thank you for the opportunity to provide support for ESHB 2238. Our organization partners with patient advocates, health care professionals, care providers, and researchers to advance kidney care in both Washington and Oregon. Together, we are committed to ensuring that all kidney dialysis patients receive high-quality care and that treatment is accessible to all.

We strongly support ESHB 2238, directing the Department of Agriculture to develop a statewide food security strategy. Food security is a critical public health issue, especially for kidney dialysis patients, who often need to manage several chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension, conditions influenced by diet and access to nutritious food. When identified early, chronic kidney disease can often be managed through diet and lifestyle changes that delay progression and improve long-term outcomes. Stable access to nutritious food supports both early intervention and the complex dietary needs of patients already receiving dialysis.

For many kidney dialysis patients, food insecurity creates impossible choices between affordability and good nutrition. Limited access to healthy foods can worsen health outcomes, accelerate kidney disease progression, and increase reliance on emergency care and costly medical interventions. Addressing food insecurity is a practical strategy to reduce long-term health care costs and improve kidney dialysis patients' health.

ESHB 2238 takes a thoughtful, coordinated approach by recognizing the interconnected nature of food access, public health, and agricultural viability. A comprehensive statewide strategy can help reduce diet-related health disparities, strengthen local food systems, and ensure kidney patients have consistent access to nutritious foods.

We urge the committee to support ESHB 2238 and move Washington toward a healthier, more food-secure future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

JP Newmann
[Northwest Kidney Council](#)