

"Krystale" Shannon Aloise
3SquaresVT Awareness Day
February 6, 2025
Senate Committee on Agriculture

Thank you for your time today as I speak to you. My name is "Krystale" Shannon Aloise, I live in Brattleboro, and I am a participant in the SNAP and Crop Cash Programs. I am here today to ask you to support NOFA-VT's request for \$500,000 in base funding to Strengthen Vermont Farm Viability and Address Food Security by sustaining two proven programs: Crop Cash (Plus) and Farm Share.

Without SNAP I wouldn't have enough food, I especially would not have enough food that is safe to eat with my disability. I am a survivor of short bowel syndrome, which means that my body cannot absorb enough nutrients from foods. With my SNAP benefits, I am able to visit the Brattleboro Farmers Market and get additional money to buy produce with Crop Cash. It is Crop Cash that provides me with the bioavailable, maximum freshness, enzyme-rich local produce and cultures that allow me to stay off IV nutrition.

More subtly, Crop Cash affords me a way to participate in the growth of my community. It allows me to contribute to small local farm businesses when I otherwise could not afford to.

That is why I am asking you today to support NOFA-VT's request for \$500,000 in base funding to Strengthen Vermont Farm Viability and Address Food Security by sustaining two proven programs: Crop Cash (Plus) and Farm Share. Thank you for listening, and I am happy to answer any questions.