

February 24, 2012

Seattle City Council Members and Mayor McGinn

The statewide [Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition](#) is highly supportive of your potential consideration of the healthy vending guidelines developed by the [King County Board of Health](#) last April. Developing such guidelines is part of an emerging trend across the country where units of government are looking to align their obvious interests in promoting healthy eating and active living with the types of food and beverages found in the vending machines that are located on their grounds and facilities and in their buildings.

We have been supportive of an even broader swipe at this food procurement idea via [HB 1801](#) at the state level. These policy approaches are important for several reasons:

- Vending machines are a common source of snacks, but are one of the few places where you cannot routinely access healthy food and beverage options.
- Units of government should model healthy (and, wherever possible, local) purchase of foods for those populations it feeds.

As we all know, good nutrition is central to individual health, with poor nutrition a major contributor to heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and other costly and debilitating diseases. In the final analysis, the goal of having units of government adopt healthy vending guidelines is quite simple and common-sense: let's ensure that we provide a "level playing field" for consumers who want healthy choices when they approach that vending machine, especially when that vending machine is located in a government setting.

We commend the City Council for considering this idea which can serve as a model for other municipalities as well as private employers and would be happy to work with you on other policy solutions to combat this obesity epidemic. Thank you for your attention to building a healthier generation in the City of Seattle and setting such a strong and clear standard across Washington State.



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COALITION MEMBERS

ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD COALITION
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS – WA CHAPTER
AMERICAN ASSOC. OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS -- WA CHAPTER
AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION (WA CHAPTER)
BICYCLE ALLIANCE
CAMP FIRE USA CENTRAL PUGET SOUND COUNCIL
CASCADE BICYCLE CLUB EDUCATION FOUNDATION
CASCADE LAND CONSERVANCY
COALITION FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH IN EARLY LEARNING
COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION FOUNDATION (C.H.E.F.)
CHILDREN’S ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY CHOICES (CLARK COUNTY)
FEET FIRST
GROUP HEALTH COOPERATIVE
HOPE HEART INSTITUTE
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MULTICARE HEALTH SYSTEMS
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PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON
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SEATTLE CHILDREN’S
SEATTLE AND KING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION
SKAGIT COUNTY HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROJECT
SPOKANE REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT
TACOMA PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
TRANSPORTATION CHOICES
TREE SWING
WASHINGTON ASSOC. OF COMMUNITY & MIGRANT HEALTH CENTERS
WASHINGTON COALITION FOR PROMOTING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
WASHINGTON DENTAL SERVICE FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON HEALTH FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON RECREATION & PARK ASSOCIATION
WASHINGTON SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION
WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
WASHINGTON STATE DAIRY COUNCIL
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WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
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YMCA – GREATER SEATTLE