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January 28, 2014

Members, House Health Care & Wellness Committee
Washington State Legislature
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Members,

I am writing on behalf of the statewide [Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition](http://www.copcwa.org) where we are always on the lookout for policy solutions that make the healthy choice easier for our children and all WA citizens. We are in support of **HB 2643** and will be pleased to provide testimony at the hearing tomorrow morning.

We need **all** sectors of our society to engage in building healthier communities. How we develop and implement policies and system changes in public and private sectors, especially those that touch children, supports healthier individuals. This bill accomplishes several key goals: one, creating a high-level collaborative space where all key stakeholders can map out a detailed game plan for building the healthiest next generation; and, two, providing a small amount of initial resources to ensure that a credible game plan is created and that the most key state agencies are deeply involved.

We need to do more than we are now to reverse the trend of childhood obesity; passing **HB 2643** can launch us down that pathway. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor Colman".

Victor Colman, JD
Director, Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition
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Cc. Chris Blake, Staff Counsel – House Health Care & Wellness Committee

COALITION MEMBERS:

American Academy of Pediatrics – WA Chapter
American Assoc. of Landscape Architects -- WA Chapter
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Cancer Society, Inc.
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Planning Association (WA Chapter)
Arthritis Foundation
Camp Fire USA Central Puget Sound Council
Cascade Bicycle Club Education Foundation
Forterra
Coalition for Safety and Health in Early Learning
Comprehensive Health Education Foundation (C.H.E.F.)
Children's Alliance
Feet First
Group Health Cooperative
Hope Heart Institute
Let's Move Cheney
MultiCare Health Systems
Nutrition First
Odessa Brown Children's Clinic
Public Health Roundtable
Physical Therapy Association of Washington
School's Out Washington
Sea Mar Community Health Centers
Seattle Children's
Seattle and King County Public Health
Seattle Parks and Recreation
Skagit County Healthy Communities Project
Snohomish Health District
Spokane Regional Health District
Tacoma Pierce County Health Department
Transportation Choices
Washington Action for Healthy Kids
Washington Assoc. of Community & Migrant Health Centers
Washington Bikes
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
Washington State PTA
Washington State Public Health Association
Washington Sustainable Food & Farming Network
Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital
YMCA – Greater Seattle



Building a Healthier Generation