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January 26, 2014

Members, Senate Health Care 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 **SB 6298** and will be pleased to provide testimony at the hearing on January 27th.

We need **all** sectors of our society to engage in building healthier communities. How we encourage and incentivize breastfeeding with new mothers via our health care institutions can directly impact individual behavior. The research linking breastfeeding to obesity prevention is unambiguous and should be therefore be influential in the policy debate on this bill.

While this bill is voluntary, the development of this “good housekeeping” seal can support and encourage breastfeeding following childbirth – a *great first defense* against obesity. **SB 6298** is an important public health prevention bill – we strongly urge your support. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Victor Colman, JD
Director, Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition
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Cc. Kathy Buchli, Staff Coordinator – Senate Health Care Committee

COALITION MEMBERS:

American Academy of Pediatrics – WA Chapter
American Assoc. of Landscape Architects -- WA Chapter
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
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
Coalition for Safety and Health in Early Learning
Comprehensive Health Education Foundation (C.H.E.F.)
Children’s Alliance
Empire Health Foundation
Feet First
Flagship Foundation
Forterra
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 and 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

