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February 17, 2015

Members, House Education 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 1568**. This bill supports dropout prevention efforts via *Dropout Prevention through Farm Engagement* pilot projects.

This bill supports our goals in several ways:

- **Enhance Health and Nutrition**
More attention to local food production will both support greater food security for the involved youth, as well as the surrounding community.
- **Education Matters for Improved Health Status**
People with more education are likely to live longer and experience better health outcomes.

We believe that while this bill comes with some costs, it is a solid investment to investigate the efficacy of the important concepts embedded in the pilot projects. On behalf of our 50 members, please support healthy kids and communities by voting Yes on **HB 1568**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Victor Colman, Director
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition

Cc. Megan Wargacki, Counsel

COALITION MEMBERS

ACTION FOR HEALTHY KIDS – WA CHAPTER
 AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS – 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
 BEECHER’S PURE FOOD KIDS FOUNDATION
 CAMP FIRE USA CENTRAL PUGET SOUND COUNCIL
 CASCADE BICYCLE CLUB EDUCATION FOUNDATION
 CHILDREN’S ALLIANCE
 COALITION FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH IN EARLY LEARNING
 FEET FIRST
 FORTERRA
 FOUNDATION FOR HEALTHY GENERATIONS
 GROUP HEALTH COOPERATIVE
 HOPE HEART INSTITUTE
 LET’S MOVE CHENEY
 MULTICARE HEALTH SYSTEMS
 NUTRITION FIRST
 ODESSA BROWN CHILDREN’S CLINIC
 PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON
 PUBLIC HEALTH ROUNDTABLE
 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
 WA ASSOC. OF COMMUNITY & MIGRANT HEALTH CENTERS
 WASHINGTON BIKES
 WA COALITION FOR PROMOTING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
 WASHINGTON DENTAL SERVICE FOUNDATION
 WASHINGTON RECREATION & PARK ASSOCIATION
 WASHINGTON SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION
 WA ST ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
 WA STATE ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS
 WASHINGTON STATE DAIRY COUNCIL
 WASHINGTON STATE PTA
 WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
 WASHINGTON SUSTAINABLE FOOD & FARMING NETWORK
 WASHINGTON TRAILS ASSOCIATION
 WITHINREACH
 YAKIMA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
 YMCA – GREATER SEATTLE