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February 22, 2015

Members, House General Government and IT Committee  
Washington State Legislature  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Members,

I am writing on behalf of the statewide [Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition \(COPC\)](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 **SHB 1685**. This bill establishes a statewide food policy forum.

The COPC worked hard in 2010 with many other groups to pass SB 6343, which morphed into Governor's Executive Order 10-02. We have participated in all EO and post EO meetings and I currently sit as co-chair of the Washington State Food Systems Roundtable. Clearly, we believe that the time is right to support efforts to establish a statewide food system policy group. Comprehensive food policy would positively impact multiple sectors, including agriculture, economic development and the environment. Our more parochial interest lay in the arena of *health*. Contemporary food policy work can support our goals by improve the health of our population by ensuring access to healthy food. We are particularly interested in surfacing strategies that can close the gap in health disparities related to food, including food insecurity, and access to healthy and affordable food.

While **SHB 1685** comes with some modest costs, it is a solid investment to develop a clear road map for building a sustainable food policy system for all sectors as well as the consumer. On behalf of our membership, please advance healthier communities by supporting **SHB 1685**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victor Colman'.

Victor Colman, Director  
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition

Cc. Dan Jones, Fiscal Analyst

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**COALITION MEMBERS**

<p>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</p>	<p>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 &amp; MIGRANT HEALTH CENTERS            WASHINGTON BIKES            WA COALITION FOR PROMOTING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY            WASHINGTON DENTAL SERVICE FOUNDATION            WASHINGTON RECREATION &amp; 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 &amp; FARMING NETWORK            WASHINGTON TRAILS ASSOCIATION            WITHINREACH            YAKIMA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL            YMCA – GREATER SEATTLE</p>
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