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March 20, 2017

Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee Members
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 look for opportunities to make the healthy choices easier for our children and all of our community members. We are in strong support of **SHB 1235**.

Today, about 1 in 5 school-aged children is obese. Physical education in schools not only improves educational outcomes, but also teaches lifelong healthy habits that reduce the risk of chronic disease later in life. Sometimes, it can be the only sure opportunity children have for physical activity.

Unfortunately, we are currently unable to form a picture about the current state of physical education opportunities in our schools. Implementing periodic school reporting requirements for Washington state schools will provide that picture of the quantity and quality of physical education in our state, including *curricula, teacher credentials, class size, frequency and space*, and other key variables. Analyzing this new information will better equip all of us to help schools address the barriers and challenges they face in getting our children the physical education they need to stay healthy.

While **SHB 1235** is a narrowly-scoped bill that simply provides a snapshot survey of physical education in our schools, the learnings are potentially far-reaching, not just in health but also in improving student readiness to learn and supporting our next generation of Washingtonians. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Victor Colman, Director
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition

Cc. Susan Mielke, 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
 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
 SAN JUAN COUNTY HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
 SCHOOL’S OUT WASHINGTON

SEA MAR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS
 SEATTLE CHILDREN’S
 SEATTLE AND KING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
 SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION
 SHAPE WASHINGTON
 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 CNTRS
 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
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 YAKIMA COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
 YMCA – GREATER SEATTLE