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February 23, 2019

House Appropriations 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 1587**, heard in your committee on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

We need **all** sectors of our society to engage in building healthier communities. How we ensure to make healthier food accessible and affordable is part of the solution.

As I noted in my testimony there are several positive financial outcomes associated with fruit and vegetable incentive programs related to the health impacts:

- ✓ *Supporting healthier eating will reduce the burden of public spending on preventable chronic diseases, like diabetes.*
- ✓ *Participants in SNAP have at least 25% lower overall health care expenditures and Medicaid/Medicare costs, compared to low-income non-SNAP participants*

We need solutions that can work on the ground for those most challenged to access healthy foods. **HB 1587** is a proven solution that will yield health benefits that are also good for the bottom line. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Victor Colman, Director  
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition

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## COALITION MEMBERS

ACTION FOR HEALTHY KIDS – WA CHAPTER	SEA MAR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS – WA CHAPTER	SEATTLE CHILDREN’S
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY’S CANCER ACTION NETWORK	SEATTLE AND KING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, INC.	SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION
AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION	SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT
AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION	SPOKANE REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT
ARCORA	TACOMA PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BEECHER’S PURE FOOD KIDS FOUNDATION	TRANSPORTATION CHOICES
CASCADE BICYCLE CLUB EDUCATION FOUNDATION	WA ASSOC. OF COMMUNITY & MIGRANT HEALTH CNTRS
CHILDREN’S ALLIANCE	WASHINGTON BIKES
COALITION FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH IN EARLY LEARNING	WASHINGTON RECREATION & PARK ASSOCIATION
FEET FIRST	WASHINGTON SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION
FORTERRA	WA STATE ASSN OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
FOUNDATION FOR HEALTHY GENERATIONS	WA STATE ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS
HEALTHY KING COUNTY COALITION	WASHINGTON STATE DAIRY COUNCIL
LET’S MOVE CHENEY	WASHINGTON STATE PTA
MULTICARE HEALTH SYSTEMS	WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
NUTRITION FIRST	WASHINGTON TRAILS ASSOCIATION
ODESSA BROWN CHILDREN’S CLINIC	WITHINREACH
PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON	VIRGINIA MASON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
PUBLIC HEALTH ROUNDTABLE	YMCA – GREATER SEATTLE
SAN JUAN COUNTY HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES	