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January 31, 2019

House Human Services and Early Learning 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**, up for executive session tomorrow morning.

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 yesterday there are multiple positive health outcomes associated with fruit and vegetable incentive programs:

- SNAP Participants spend more of SNAP incentives on healthy foods; actually consume more fruits/vegetables; and tend to eat healthier after the incentive program ends
- Children are taught healthy behaviors, helping to establish lifetime habits
- Participation in SNAP has already linked with lower health care costs; this program will only intensify that positive impact (in WA State, 72% of participants report managing their health conditions better)

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 multiple health benefits. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Victor Colman, Director
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition

Cc. Dawn Eychaner, Research Analyst

COALITION MEMBERS

ACTION FOR HEALTHY KIDS – WA CHAPTER
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS – WA CHAPTER
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S CANCER ACTION NETWORK
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, INC.
AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION
ARCORA
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
HEALTHY KING COUNTY COALITION
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 & COMMUNITY SERVICES
SEA MAR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS
SEATTLE CHILDREN'S
SEATTLE AND KING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION
SHAPE WASHINGTON
SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT
SPOKANE REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT
TACOMA PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
TRANSPORTATION CHOICES
WA ASSOC. OF COMMUNITY & MIGRANT HEALTH CNTRS
WASHINGTON BIKES
WASHINGTON RECREATION & PARK ASSOCIATION
WASHINGTON SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION
WA STATE ASSN 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 TRAILS ASSOCIATION
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