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February 5, 2019

Senate Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation
Washington State Legislature
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Members,

I am writing on behalf of the statewide [Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition](http://www.copcwa.org) which advances policy solutions that make the healthy choice easier for our children and all WA citizens. We are in support of **SB 5583**, which had its initial policy committee hearing earlier today.

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 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. **SB 5583** is a proven solution that will yield multiple health benefits. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Victor Colman, Director
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition

Cc. Alison Mendiola

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	SHAPE WASHINGTON
AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION	SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT
ARCORA	SPOKANE REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT
BEECHER’S PURE FOOD KIDS FOUNDATION	TACOMA PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
CASCADE BICYCLE CLUB EDUCATION FOUNDATION	TRANSPORTATION CHOICES
CHILDREN’S ALLIANCE	WA ASSOC. OF COMMUNITY & MIGRANT HEALTH CNTRS
COALITION FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH IN EARLY LEARNING	WASHINGTON BIKES
FEET FIRST	WASHINGTON RECREATION & PARK ASSOCIATION
FORTERRA	WASHINGTON SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION
FOUNDATION FOR HEALTHY GENERATIONS	WA STATE ASSN OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
HEALTHY KING COUNTY COALITION	WA STATE ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS
LET’S MOVE CHENEY	WASHINGTON STATE DAIRY COUNCIL
MULTICARE HEALTH SYSTEMS	WASHINGTON STATE PTA
NUTRITION FIRST	WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
ODESSA BROWN CHILDREN’S CLINIC	WASHINGTON TRAILS ASSOCIATION
PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON	WITHINREACH
PUBLIC HEALTH ROUNDTABLE	VIRGINIA MASON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
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