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April 2, 2019

Senate Ways & Means 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 remain in support of [SHB 1587](#) (SNAP Healthy Food Incentives) and encourage you to include the necessary costs in the 2019-21 operating budget (as found in ESSB 1109 with funds flowing to the state Department of Health).

We need **all** sectors of our society to engage in building healthier communities. How we ensure to make healthier food accessible and affordable to those that can least afford it is part of the solution. 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. The concepts found in [SHB 1587](#) will yield health benefits that are also good for the bottom line of our state budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Victor Colman, Director  
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition

cc. Michele Alishahi

## 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
SAN JUAN COUNTY HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES	YMCA – GREATER SEATTLE