



419 Third Ave. West
Seattle, WA 98119
360.878.2543
www.copcwa.org

January 28, 2020

Senate Health and Long-Term Care 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 healthy choice easier for our children and all WA citizens. We are in support of **SB 6455**, up for executive session tomorrow in your committee.

We need **all** sectors of our society to engage in building healthier communities. How we ensure to make healthier drinks accessible to our youngest citizens is part of the solution. Making healthy beverages the default beverage on every kid's menu is important for several reasons:

- It provides a real choice for parents, rather than our current reality that tilts toward sugary beverages as the default choice
- We now know that early consumption of sugary drinks is associated with lower diet quality, development of unhealthy taste preferences and potential longer-term health conditions
- It enables our next generation to be the healthiest yet by supporting their ability to establish lifetime eating habits at an early age

SB 6455 supports parents in their everyday efforts to provide healthy foods and beverages to their children, while still preserving the ability for parents to make their own choices. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Victor Colman, Director
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition

cc. Greg Attanasio, Counsel

COALITION MEMBERS

ACTION FOR HEALTHY KIDS – WA CHAPTER	SAN JUAN COUNTY HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS – WA CHAPTER	SEA MAR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY’S CANCER ACTION NETWORK	SEATTLE CHILDREN’S
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, INC.	SEATTLE AND KING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION	SHAPE WASHINGTON
AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION	SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT
ARCORA	SPOKANE REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT
BEECHER’S FOUNDATION	TACOMA PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
CASCADE BICYCLE CLUB	TRANSPORTATION CHOICES
CHILDREN’S ALLIANCE	WA ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH
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 FOOD AMERICA	WA STATE ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS
HEALTHY KING COUNTY COALITION	WASHINGTON STATE DAIRY COUNCIL
KAISER PERMANENTE	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