

Providence Health & Services
4400 N.E. Halsey St., Building 2
Suite 599
Portland, OR 97213
www.providence.org/oregon



February 21, 2019

The Honorable Sara Gelser
Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Senate Bill 727, nutrition assistance for fruits and vegetables

Dear Senator Gelser and members of the committee:

Providence Health & Services continues a vibrant, nearly 165 year, history of caring for individuals within our ministries in addition to seeking out those in the most need. Today, with the support of our frontline caregivers and a diverse group of community partners, Providence's commitment to serving our communities is stronger than ever.

Daily we are faced with the reality that Oregon is one of the nation's most food-insecure states. Our children are at high risk for developmental problems, frequent illness and nutritional inadequacies. Providence respectfully requests that the committee support SB 727 as a means of reducing the barriers that low-income children and families have when it comes to accessing fresh fruits and vegetables.

Providence is committed to fighting hunger in new and innovative ways. One of the evolving programs we're proud, our **5,2,1,0 + 9** approach to address childhood obesity, working with our partners. Our shared goals are to encourage children to eat 5 fruits and vegetables a day, watch less than 2 hours of screen time, get 1 hour or more of physical activity, drink 0 sugar sweetened beverages, and get at least 9 hours of sleep.

Providence believes we can *create healthier communities, together* - we hope you'll join us in support of SB 727.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Mariea-Nason".

Pam Mariea-Nason, RN, MBA
Executive, Community Health Division
Providence Health & Services - Oregon