

I am a Registered Dietitian who works in a long term care facility, and I strongly oppose this bill. In my facility, we work diligently to offer our residents a variety of choices with meals and we use a person-centered approach to managing the nutritional care of our residents. We have a vegan resident who has lived with us for about 2 years now and she has no issues adhering to her plant-based diet of choice. We cater her meals to her individual preferences, just like any other resident in our facility, without the need to have a "required" plant-based meal option advertised on our menu everyday. The state of Oregon and CMS already have regulations in place to ensure resident choice, including choice of what to eat, is honored in a long term care setting, so there should be no need for additional legislation like HB 2348. As a Registered Dietitian, I have a very thorough understanding of the dangers that can happen when foods are restricted or "not allowed" to adults who are capable of making an informed choice. Not allowing bacon or deli meat to be served in a hospital setting would impose inappropriate restrictions on the general population, without any evidence of the benefit of eliminating those types of foods. I am not familiar with any evidence-based literature indicating a significant risk of increased morbidity or mortality from eating 1 serving of bacon daily. As a Registered Dietitian, I have been specially trained to educate patients and clients on appropriate food choices specific to the person's individual nutritional needs and health conditions. It is my job to provide accurate information to the individual so that an informed choice can be made. It is not my job to tell someone what can or cannot be eaten and it is certainly not my job to be the "food police". Making bacon illegal in a hospital would be an exercise in fascism, and I don't want to live in a state that would promote such practices.