

March 15, 2021

House Committee on Human Services  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Williams, Vice-Chair Leif, Vice-Chair Ruiz, and Members of the Committee:

As the Chair and Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at Western University, I strongly support Oregon House Bill 2348. At the Western University of Health Sciences COMP-Northwest, as the Chief Wellness Officer, I oversee the Nutrition in Medicine lecture series where we teach medical students both the evidence and the practical knowledge of how food and lifestyle can be powerful drivers for patient health. The power of lifestyle choice is enormous. What we choose to eat, whether we smoke, and how we move our bodies are enormously important factors in human health. The students are often surprised that there's actually a way to prevent and reverse many of these chronic diseases that we treat, such as heart disease, diabetes, and obesity, which affect Oregonians at alarming rates.

The medical students go on to practice primary care, and not only is this knowledge base important for physicians to learn but we must also educate and model for our patients the importance of these lifestyle factors to their personal health. We must ensure that there is adequate access to these health promoting plant-based foods in the healthcare setting so that patients and staff have the option to select a meal that will support their health and recovery.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. **I strongly urge your support of HB 2348.**

Sincerely,



**Robyn Dreibelbis, DO, FACP**

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