

March 17, 2021

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

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2348

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

I am a formerly incarcerated individual who served nearly 30 years in Oregon State Correctional Institution. I am writing to support HB 2348.

I have eaten over 30 years ODOC's food items. During that time, I have personally experienced the poor and expired food options due, at times, to ODOC's mismanagement of funds for Adults in custody (AIC) food. *See* https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/2011/03/fred_monem_fugitive_in_oregon.html. Due to the ODOC's conduct, I continue to suffer, post-incarceration, many health problems.

Setting aside those issues, ODOC routinely offered powdered eggs, soda pop, and other nutritionally deficient food items. When court ordered to provide a religiously appropriate meat alternative, ODOC resisted and presented stale, tasteless beans and rice as a meat alternative. Often while given the choice of distressed food or a "meat alternative" inmates were forced to choose the lesser of two evils. Most the time, I would spend my funds to purchase items from canteen (beans and rice and soup) to provide adequate and safe food choices for myself and others.

HB 2348 ensures ODOC will provide a healthy alternative option to the diet they currently have mismanaged for AICs. It also guarantees oversight to a corrections department that has placed money saving measures (at the personal gain of employees and management) over the health and well being of AIC's in their care and custody.

For these reasons, I urge you to support HB 2348.

Respectfully,

Terry Zion,
1306 7th
Springfield, Oregon 97477