

House Committee on Human Services  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
Re: HB 2348

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

From: Nancy Becker MS RDN FADA, on behalf of myself only

I am a Registered Dietitian and have long been an advocate for healthy foods in public places. I support the notion of requiring that long term care institutions, including correctional facilities be required to have plant based options available for residents and patients. Many individuals have adopted a plant based personal dietary plan and their needs should be respected and allowed to flourish, regardless of the circumstances that they are in. No Oregonian should have to struggle to get their dietary needs met just because they are in an institution. All of the facilities in question have freezer space and maintaining a supply of frozen plant-based entrees, side dishes, and beverages would not be overly onerous.

I'm mystified as to why HB 2348 includes a prohibition on all processed meats, however. By the same reasoning, patients and residents should be able to exercise their own free will and decide whether or not they wish to eat these processed meats. While they certainly would not be considered "healthful" in normal circumstances they may add palatability and interest to individuals whose appetites are diminished. This is especially true for those in long term care facilities who may be near the end of their lives.

If choice is to be increased by ensuring that plant based foods are available, why not provide choice with regards to processed meats? This could be accomplished by separating these two altogether different provisions in the bill into two separate bills, each to be decided on their own merits.