

David S. Wall
P.O. Box 756 Newberg, Oregon 97132; [408-287-6838]

May 6, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Education; [others]

Re: I OPPOSE [HB 2536]...(as written)...School children should be well fed for free while attending school.

I fully support providing "free breakfast and lunches" to all students regardless of their family's income.

[HB 2536] is very poorly written and therefore I cannot support this swill.

[HB 2536] excerpt states, "...(1)(a) A school or school district that **meets the eligibility requirements** of the special provisions of the United States Department of Agriculture's National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program may offer reimbursable breakfasts, lunches or both at no charge and without consideration of individual eligibility by applying to the Department of Education." **** Meals should be provided, period.**

"...(b) If the school or school district is approved under paragraph (a) of this subsection, the school or school district **must offer breakfasts, lunches or both to all students of the school or school district at no charge to the student.**" ****The "approval process" is cumbersome and antiquated and should be considered flotsam and jettisoned. Children from rich families may have irresponsible parents and are coming to school hungry.**

****Caveat: I do not support the "delivery of free meals" to the student's homes for any reason.** Feeding children at home is the responsibility of the parent and not the taxpayers. Last year (2020), while watching a local news broadcast, I witnessed school buses and school district employees deliver "free meals" to students homes.

"...(2)(a) If a school or school district does not offer reimbursable breakfasts or lunches as described in subsection (1) of this section, the school district must ensure that each school of the school district..."

The requirement, "...**(A) Offers lunch at no charge to students from households with incomes that do not exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. (B) Offers breakfast at no charge to students from households with incomes that do not exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, if breakfast must be offered pursuant to ORS 327.535...**" is objectionable because it is vague and ambiguous.

[HB 2536] should be written in terms the lay person will easily understand.

****Question:** What is the actual dollar amount that defines, "...**300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines...**?"

****Question:** Do the parents and the children provide any **volunteer labor** to offset the difference between the actual cost of the meals minus the reimbursement amounts?

****Question:** Do school districts have ample gardening space to grow food for their meal programs?

****Question:** Do school districts integrate gardening food into their science curriculum?

Oregon agricultural products should be fueling school children's creative minds and bodies without regard to income.

Oregon could set the national standard for school children's nutritional programs without much money and or effort.

[HB 2536] needs to be rewritten.

Respectfully submitted

/s/ David S. Wall

///