



Connected **for Life**

February 24, 2025

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Dobson, Vice-Chair McIntire, and Members of the House Committee On Education

On behalf of the American Diabetes Association (ADA), thank you for your consideration of HB 3435, which would ensure all students access to healthy, nutritious school meals at no cost.

ADA supports this legislation because food insecurity is linked to both the development and progression of diabetes. Affordable, healthy food choices are difficult for some families, including their school-aged children. According to Feeding America 1 in 6 children in Oregon face hunger.¹

For children who already have type 1 or type 2 diabetes, food insecurity can also increase the risk of complications. Missing meals, for example, can disrupt the child's blood glucose (sugar) levels and put them at higher risk of hypoglycemia, or low blood glucose. On the other side, those with diabetes who consume only unhealthy food may have more frequent high blood glucose levels, or hyperglycemia, which can raise the risk of long-term complications.

Ensuring access to nutritious and affordable foods is critical to preventing and managing diabetes. On behalf of your constituents with schoolchildren who are living with or at risk for diabetes, I urge you to support HB 3435 to make a vital investment in improving our children's health. We simply can't afford not to.

If I can be of further assistance to you, please contact me at mprokop@diabetes.org.

Sincerely,

Matt Prokop
Director, State Government Affairs

¹ <https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/oregon>