



Testimony in Support of HB 3403

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Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association in support of HB 3403.

The Oregon Nurses Association is proud to represent over 13,000 Oregon Nurses. Oregon Nurses make up the largest segment of Oregon's health care work force, and work in nearly every health care setting imaginable, from large hospitals to small local clinics, from corrections to school based health centers, and community-based public health.

HB 3403 gives people who work in or visit Oregon's public buildings—whether offices, community centers, city halls, or university campus—healthy choices for snacks and beverages purchased in public building vending machines. According to the *2010 State of the Snack Industry Report*, 75 percent of consumers are trying to eat healthier foods, and 65 percent reported substituting healthier food options in their diet to lose weight. HB 3403 provides people who are consciously trying to make healthier lifestyle and eating choices with healthier options.

Our country is facing an unprecedented obesity epidemic. According to a study conducted by Oregon's Public Health Division in 2012, obesity contributes to the deaths of about 1,400 Oregonians each year, making it second only to tobacco as the state's leading cause of preventable death. Obesity commonly leads to the development of chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, arthritis, heart disease, and stroke. Diet is one factor that contributes to obesity and poor health outcomes, and this bill would take a step forward in ensuring that people in public buildings have healthy choices.

The Oregon legislature has already taken important steps to address Oregon's obesity problem. HB 3403 compliments the 2007 Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids Act, which established standards for food sold in Oregon's schools, 2008's Farm to School and School Garden legislation, and Oregon's 2009 Menu Labeling legislation. This is a simple change that would give Oregonians access to healthier snack options, help cut health care costs by improving the health of Oregonians, and most importantly, can help foster healthier lifestyles for many Oregonians who are already making an effort to lose weight and improve their health.

ONA urges you to support HB 3403.