

Dave Harvey

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House Bill 2404 Testimony

I am writing today as a parent and as a professional in the school food service industry. I am in support of House Bill 2404 that includes the exemption of entrees from meeting certain calorie and fat content when they are the same entrees that are offered as part of the reimbursable meal.

HB2404 helps align the State of Oregon Nutrition Standards with the new USDA Nutrition Standards for all foods and beverages sold to students during the school day. When ORS 336.423 was originally passed, the USDA did not have regulations to the extent they have today. I agree that there was a need to have restrictions that regulated food and beverage sales to help curb unhealthy competitive foods and beverages is sold to students to enable a more healthy way of life.

In my professional experience, school meals that are served through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and National School Breakfast Program (NSBP) are science-based, nutritionally balanced and provide age-appropriate portions to students every day. Exempting school entrees from calorie and fat restrictions will send a consistent nutritional message about school meals, as they already fit into a balanced and nutritionally sound meal, and represent a healthier choice for students who do not want the whole meal. These entrées are already heavily regulated portions that meet strict standards set by the USDA and State agencies.

As a parent, we need these minor changes that House Bill 2404 addresses for school districts across the State of Oregon. As a professional in the industry, this will help us continue to meet parent, student and school customer needs.

Thank you for your time.