



TO: HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
FROM: KASANDRA GRIFFIN,
POLICY MANAGER FOR FOOD AND SCHOOL HEALTH
UPSTREAM PUBLIC HEALTH
DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2015
RE: HB 2404 RE. SCHOOL NUTRITION STANDARDS

Upstream Public Health is a statewide public health advocacy organization. We believe that smart policies are the best way to create communities that help people lead healthy, full lives.

We are very concerned about both hunger *and* the epidemic of childhood obesity, so we have been very interested in school meals programs. We think good food is a cornerstone to help all kids grow up healthy and thrive in school and in life.

This legislation modifies HB 2650 from 2007, which we worked very hard to pass. That law set Oregon's existing nutrition standards for what we call "competitive foods" – items sold outside of the official federal reimbursable school meal program.

We support most elements of this bill, which we see as minor tidying and alignment of the state and federal standards. We support the elements about caffeine, seed and nut butters, and juice.

However, we have one issue of concern.

On page 3, lines 8-14 exempt certain "entrée" items from calorie and fat limits.

You have a dash-two amendment in front of you that proposes to remove those lines. With that amendment, Upstream Public Health can support this bill.

Without that amendment, we would request that you delay your vote and give us a chance to work out our concerns with ODE and our colleagues in school food authorities.

We definitely do not support weakening Oregon's standards... but I confess that we are not 100% clear about what federal standards *are* in effect for entrees if Oregon's competitive foods standards are relaxed.