



Partners for a  
Hunger-Free Oregon

*Ending hunger before it begins.*

To: Senate Committee on Rules  
From: Matt Newell-Ching, Public Affairs Director  
Subject: Statement of Support for HB 3454 A and the -A2 Amendment  
Date: June 26, 2017

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No child should experience shame for eating meals at school.

One in four kids in Oregon lives in a family that is at risk of hunger. Not only are school meals one of our best tools to end child hunger and keep kids healthy, but students who eat breakfast at school are more likely to have better attendance and graduate high school.

**We support HB 3454 A** – which was passed unanimously by the Oregon House on June 14 - which takes measures to eliminate school meal shaming. **We support the -A2 Amendment** which makes clarifying technical changes to the bill that was adopted unanimously by the Oregon House.

The -A2 Amendment effectively makes the following clarifications consistent with the original intent of the bill:

- The first change clarifies that a meal must be reimbursable by USDA based on nutritional content. The second change clarifies what's already in section (1)(1)(b) that a meal may not be thrown away, and specifies that the meal must be the same. Together, these changes would avoid the problem of kids with overdue balances being served an alternative meal, such as a cheese sandwich, that has the impact of identifying a student with an unpaid meal balance to the student's peers.
- The amendment also clarifies that a school should attempt to verify a student's eligibility for school meals using "direct certification," which was the original intent of the bill. In many cases, students can be determined eligible for school meals based on participation in other means tested programs, like SNAP or TANF. The state provides this data to school districts and they can check these lists prior to contacting families to see if students can be certified for free meals without an application.

**We urge the committee to adopt the -A2 amendment and pass HB 3454 A.**