

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice Chari Linthicum and Members of the Senate Health Committee, House Bill 3342 is one you would think someone like me would strongly support. I am a recognized expert in clinical nutrition, a Registered Dietitian holding a masters degree in Food Science. I follow a plant-based diet personally for the health and environmental benefits. I work as the director for a large community hospital food service department. From my kitchen we provide a plethora of plant based whole foods selections at every meal such as a seasoned tofu scramble with zucchini noodles at breakfast, a hearty hummus supreme and vegetable sandwich and a selection of fresh fruit, salads and soups at lunch, and a delicious quinoa and black bean salad bowl with house made dressing for dinner. We exceed compliance with this bill, we are fortunate. These meals are prepared with care by professional chefs by an institution that believes in the healing power of nutrition as evidenced by their financial and time investment in a nutrient balanced patient menu.

My concern with HB 3342 is implementation, the idea is beautiful and the opportunity for patients, residents, and those committed in prisons to select a plant-based diet is honorable. The issue is resources, whom will plan for nutritionally balanced meals, who will prepare them, who will fund this work and pay for the required resources? Who will supervise for nutritional adequacy? A vegan diet has several nutrients of concerns that must be closely monitored. I am one hundred percent committed to the potential health and lifestyle benefits of offering a plant-based/vegan diet, this bill needs more development. More structure and guidelines. Support and clarity for those managing our prisons, smaller hospitals, long term care facilities.

I have read the letter from the Oregon Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (of which I am not a member) and strongly endorse the stated concerns related to potential harm to patients and reiterate the concern with resource availability.

Please consider refusing this bill currently, with encouragement to those in support to work on a sustainable plan for implementation and financial assistance and incentives. I appreciate your time and remain available for discussion and further questions.

In health,

Irene Boyle Franklin, MS, RD, LD

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