



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

May 1, 2019

The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair
Senate Committee on Health Care

RE: House Bill 3342A

Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the committee, I am Michael Gower, Assistant Director of the Operations Division for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am providing written testimony on the current practices for providing meat-alternative diets within the department.

What the Bill Does:

HB 3342A requires hospitals and long-term care facilities to make available plant-based meals when necessary to accommodate medical, religious, cultural or ethnic needs, preferences, or requests. It also requires DOC to make plant-based meals available to persons committed to its jurisdiction any time a meal is served.

Background Information:

DOC currently offers a meat alternative tray (MAT) which is a lower calorie option than our mainline meals. This is served to those who choose not to consume meat for personal or dietary preferences, including weight loss. It is offered at the lunch and dinner meals. Some institutions may require adults in custody (AICs) to sign up in advance.

The MAT is low in fat, sodium, and sugar and includes animal byproducts such as eggs and dairy. AICs can select this tray instead of the regular mainline items or opt for an 8 oz. bowl of beans in place of the main entrée in a regular meal.

The MAT consists of a variety of fresh vegetables, steamed rice (brown and white), and a variety of simmered beans. Along with these items, individuals can also add from the mainline; cooked vegetables, bread and margarine of the day, as well as the salad and dressing of the day.

A meat-free breakfast substitution is also available. The meal is the same as mainline; however, the meat item is replaced with 1 1/2 oz. of peanut butter.

Both the MAT and non-meat breakfast substitutions are also made available to those in special housing.

Each tray provides a minimum of 35 grams of protein and approximately 800-1100 calories per meal and meets the nutritional needs (including calcium and vitamin B12) of our AIC population. A soft version is also available, if ordered by a physician.

DOC currently serves a meat alternative option that provides food which is very close to the provisions in HB 3342A.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Submitted by:

Oregon Department of Corrections

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