

To: Members of the Oregon Legislature

My name is Daniel Redwood. I am director of the Master of Science in Human Nutrition and Functional Medicine program at the University of Western States in Portland.

Our faculty and students come from diverse educational and professional backgrounds, including doctors of medicine, chiropractic, osteopathy, and naturopathy, as well as dietitians, nurses and other health professions. At the foundation of our program is the evidence-based conclusion that the healthiest diets are those strongest in whole plant foods. This is not in dispute in the nutrition science community.

I write to you in support of HB 3342-A.

HB 3342-A does not force anyone to eat a healthy diet strong in plant foods but it does mandate that during their stays in hospitals and other healthcare institutions such as long-term care facilities, patients should have such food available to them. That is the crux of the matter before you.

Over the years, I have known far too many people who were hospitalized only to find that such healthy, plant-strong dietary choices were not available to them. In my view, this is problematic not only for its adverse health implications but also because it denies such individuals what I believe should be a fundamental right -- access to nutritious food.

HR 3342-A seeks to rectify this situation. I urge you to vote in favor of this excellent and much-needed bill.

Thank you.

Daniel Redwood, DC