

I agree that foodservices in hospitals, long term care facilities, and correctional facilities should offer meals that contain food choices consistent with the eaters personal food preferences. There is nothing worse than to be captive in a facility that does not offer the kind of food that the patient, visitor to that patient, or the inmate prefers to eat. Yes, vegan food offerings the are wholly plant based should be offered in a nutritionally adequate form. However, I question that this needs to become a separate law, especially for hospitals and long term care facilities since the state and federal regulations already specify that the patients/residents must be offered food that is consistent with their food preferences as well as their health needs. I am not familiar with the regulations regarding foodservice in correctional facilities. I worked as a consultant dietitian to long term care facilities in the state of Oregon from 1982-1999 and besides my private nutritional counseling practice from 2001-2020, I also worked in a hospital environment. I am well versed in the regulations that these institutions are required to follow.

In addition, I consider the mandate in the bill that no processed meats shall be served in any hospital is a serious overreach. I take it that the writers decided not to include long term care facilities in this prohibition so I will not speak to how this goes against the same personal preference requirement I cited above. I agree that eating too many processed meats can negatively impact health. This does not mean that none can be eaten ever. However, the decision to make a hospital foodservice, including the visitor and employee cafeterias, prohibited from serving any bacon in their chicken wrap is a decision the foodservice professionals, which includes registered dietitians, and their customers should make for themselves.

I recommend this bill not be applied to hospitals and long term care facilities and further suggest you consider whether there even needs to be such a law. As far as no financial impact to the bill is concerned I suggest there there definitely would be increased for food and labor in a hospital and long term care facility and the same would occur for the state and county governments in their correctional facilities.

Sincerely, Janet G Mann, MS Registered and Licensed Dietitian