

I oppose this bill.

I am a registered dietitian nutritionist, RDN, with forty years of working experience. The majority of my practice has been in senior health and housing (long term care etc.). The mission of the dietary department is provision of safe food and nutrition to meet the residents and patients preferences and needs.

The current bill is a **DUPLICATION** of the regulations that are currently in place. I contend that a resident/patient's choice of the plant based diet is a preference that is already accommodated under the current regulations and therefore additional regulation is not necessary.

**See below.**

**From the Federal Regulations: CMS. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service §483.60 Food and nutrition services.**

The facility must provide each resident with a nourishing, palatable, well-balanced diet that meets his or her daily nutritional and special dietary needs, *taking into consideration the preferences of each resident.*

- d. Food and drink. Each resident receives and the facility provides—
- (1) Food prepared by methods that conserve nutritive value, flavor, and appearance;
  - (2) Food and drink that is palatable, attractive, and at a safe and appetizing temperature;
  - (3) Food prepared in a form designed to meet individual needs;
  - (4) *Food that accommodates resident allergies, intolerances, and preferences;*
  - (5) Appealing options of similar nutritive value to residents who choose not to eat food that is initially served or who request a different meal choice; and
  - (6) Drinks, including water and other liquids consistent with resident needs and *preferences* and sufficient to maintain resident hydration.

Janelle Asai, RDN 3/14/21