



The Honorable Governor Scott Walker  
Office of the Governor  
115 East State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

June 21, 2013

Dear Governor Walker:

First and foremost, we would like to express our appreciation for your leadership on public health efforts that can impact the health of all Wisconsinites. The decisions you make not only impact and benefit the citizens of Wisconsin, but also have the opportunity to ensure our state is headed in the right direction.

**The reason for our letter is to request you veto provision #66.0418 in the state budget, which reads:**

- 1) In this section "political subdivision" means a city, village, town, or county.
- (2) (a) No political subdivision may enact an ordinance or adopt a resolution that prohibits or restricts the sale of food or nonalcoholic beverages based on the number of calories, portion size, or other nutritional criteria of the food or nonalcoholic beverage.
- (b) If a political subdivision has enacted an ordinance or adopted a resolution before the effective date of this paragraph ... [LRB inserts date], that is inconsistent with par. (a), the ordinance or resolution does not apply and may not be enforced.

**This motion effectively eliminates local governments' ability to enact important public health measures that best meet the needs of their communities. In particular, this motion would greatly weaken local government wellness programs by preventing such governments from setting nutrition standards for government employees and buildings.**

As a former county executive, you know firsthand the importance of local government wellness programs that reduce health care costs, improve health, and save taxpayer dollars. Designating 2013 as the "Year of Well-Being" signals that you will continue your commitment to promoting wellness programs.

Unfortunately should this budget provision become law, local governments will not have the same ability to encourage healthy eating and improve health within their own communities.

Obesity prevention advocates, including the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Health First Wisconsin, the Childhood Obesity Prevention Collaborative, and the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, oppose legislation that restricts local governments from addressing the health concerns of its citizens.

The economic burden of obesity in Wisconsin is serious. Each year, obese adults incur \$1,400 more in medical expenses than their normal weight peers. Without action, obesity related medical expenditures will increase more than 70 percent by 2020.

Allowing this provision to become law is a step in the wrong direction and the State of Wisconsin cannot afford to move backward when addressing our obesity epidemic.

We hope that you will continue your efforts toward a healthier Wisconsin by vetoing this part of the state budget.

Sincerely,



Allison Miller, Government Relations Director  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network



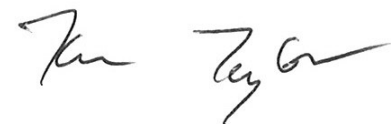
Maureen Busalacchi, Executive Director  
Health First Wisconsin



Nan Peterson, RN, MS, Co-chair  
Childhood Obesity Prevention Collaborative



David B. Allen, MD, Co-chair  
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Ken Taylor, Executive Director  
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