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Patrick Moran - President

Testimony
HB 1071 – Health – Health and Wellness Standards – Correctional Facilities and
Health Care Facilities
Health & Government Operations
March 9, 2021
Support

AFSCME Council 3 supports HB 1071.

AFSCME Council 3 represents correctional officers in our state's prisons. Our members see firsthand how the physical and social environment can have a systemwide impact upon the facilities' residents.

This includes the food that is eaten by inmates. In a country where there is so much money and emphasis placed upon diet, exercise and lifestyle choices, it is common sense that the healthy living strategies we are advised to follow should apply to even those incarcerated.

The chronic diseases of high cholesterol, hypertension and diabetes are all treatable with expensive medications. But we also know that preventative steps taken around diet, exercise, and even sleep can have a positive impact and lower the incidence of these issues or improve existing conditions.

This legislation is an investment that will deliver savings to the state, with a constructive by-product of a healthier population that can be fully engaged in education and rehabilitative programs. And a healthier population can in turn lead to a safer environment for all.

Others here today will attest to the scientific and nutritional value that this legislation will provide. While we would oppose a mandate on the diet of our officers, from our perspective, a strategy that can optimize the positive impact of rehabilitative services and create safer environments for officers and inmates is a strategy to be embraced and implemented.

AFSCME Council 3 requests a favorable report of this legislation.

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An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.
800.492.1996

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