From:	Therese Lewandowski
To:	Senate Health and Social Services; Sen. Forrest Dunbar; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Matt Claman; Sen. Löki Tobin; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Cc:	Rep. Sarah Vance
Subject:	SB 187 Prohibit Food Dyes in Public School meals
Date:	Tuesday, April 7, 2026 11:27:26 AM

Senators,

I am thrilled to see this bill.

I'm also thrilled to see the document from Center for Science in the Public Interest who have been advocating for the removal of synthetic food dyes from food for years.

The research is to be believed as it is evident in behavior. And when you factor in not just behavioral health but physical health that should get every parent/guardian and public school administrator/teacher to stand up and do something.

The problem with many parents/guardians is the cost of "natural" foods. Feeding a family on whole foods and finding snacks that aren't loaded with high fructose syrups and synthetic dyes is expensive.

That's where a healthy school lunch can really make a difference. Enlisting the schools to get kids to like and get used to foods that are not chemically loaded would be amazing!

We also know that kids who are nutritionally deficient grow up to have health and behavioral problems. As with all things in early education, timing is essential.

On a side note - my household loves Christmas candy canes and spring colored chocolate covered little m&m's. Try to find them for a reasonable price... hard to do. I did find a company in Michigan that sells naturally colored candy canes and naturally dyed chocolate covered quinoa! No complaints, we love them.

Please support this bill, please pass it out of committee and do your best to get it to the floor! Thanks to Senator Wielechowski for sponsoring this health related bill that affects us all.

Therese Lewandowski
Homer