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August 29, 2013

The Honorable Kevin de León
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: AB 290 (Alejo) Senate Appropriations Committee Analysis

Dear Chairperson de León:

California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) is writing in strong support of AB 290 (Alejo), legislation designed to improve the health and wellness of California's youngest residents by strengthening child care providers' understanding of childhood nutrition and awareness of federal nutrition resources. AB 290 was placed on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. In these last few hours that AB 290 is under consideration for passage to the Senate Floor, CFPA would like to briefly highlight the steps Assembly Member Alejo has taken to ensure the fiscal neutrality of this legislation.

The committee's analysis indicates that, as originally written, AB 290 could have generated unintended costs for the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), the department responsible for overseeing the Preventive Health and Safety training. In response, Assembly Member Alejo has offered amendments to address the potential workload costs. The amendments extend AB 290's effective date to provide sufficient time for EMSA to implement the requirements through existing processes. In addition, the amendments allow for implementation of the requirements through bulletin or similar instruction from the director in an effort to reduce costs associated with the development of regulations.

AB 290 ensures California's licensed child care providers have the educational background (nutrition training) and financial means (access to the federally-funded Child and Adult Care Food Program) to serve healthier foods at a lower cost.

CFPA is proud to sponsor AB 290 and urges the Senate Appropriations Committee to support healthy nutrition in child care by passing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elyse Homel Vitale".

Elyse Homel Vitale, MPH
Nutrition Policy Advocate
California Food Policy Advocates

CC: Assembly Member Alejo