**Please note, this bill is no longer being considered by the legislature. For more information visit: www.cfpa.net/ab842.**

**AB 842 (Limón) Sample Letter of Support**

In February 2019, Assemblymember Monique Limón introduced [AB 842](http://www.cfpa.net/ab842), legislation that will fight hunger and advance equity by guaranteeing that all low-income public school students – including our youngest learners – have access to nutritious, affordable healthy meals.

**How you can help:** We encourage organizations and individuals to use this sample letter or write their own letter in support of AB 842. If you are an organization, be sure to submit your letter on letterhead. If you are an individual, be sure to include your mailing address in your letter.

* **Submit a letter of support online:** Starting in 2019, the California State Legislature has an online system for individuals and organizations to submit letters of support. We’ve created step-by-step instructions about using the system to submit letters. View the instructions [here](https://cfpa.net/GeneralNutrition/Legislation/HowTo-CALegPortal-2019.pdf). Remember to submit on behalf of your organization, if you are submitting a letter for your organization.
* **After you submit the letter online, send a copy to:**
jimmy.wittrock@asm.ca.gov and melissa@cfpa.net
* **Questions:** contact Melissa Cannon at 213.447.2300 or Melissa@cfpa.net

**[Insert letterhead or mailing address]**

**[Date]**

The Honorable Senator Anthony J. Portantino

State Capitol, Room 3086

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Support for AB 842 – Hunger-Free Preschool and Child Care**

Dear Senator Portantino,

**[I am/Name of your organization is]** writing to ask for your support of AB 842, which will fight hunger, advance equity, and support student success by guaranteeing that more low-income children have access to healthy meals in preschool and child care.

Children need nutritious food every day to grow, develop, and thrive. But nearly one quarter of California’s families can’t afford to meet their basic needs. As the state works towards universal preschool and expanded access to child care, we need to make sure the most basic needs of low-income families are being met: whether in high school or preschool low-income children need access to meals. The state can help build the capacity of our early care and education system to prevent hunger, break the cycle of poverty, and close the achievement gap by supporting policies and investments that increase access to meals for our youngest learners.

**[I/We]** support AB 842 because **[choose one or more of the following reasons or add your own]**

* **Equity should start early.** All students deserve equitable access to the basic resources that support their success, including meals. To close the achievement gap for low-income children and children of color, we must guarantee equity in access to healthy meals for all children, including our youngest learners.
* **Hungry students struggle to learn.** Research and common sense tell us that children must be well nourished in order to learn, grow, and achieve at their fullest potential. No child should go hungry in a California public school, preschool, or child care program.
* **This change is feasible.** Public schools are entitled to state and federal funds to operate school meal programs. From self-prep in an on-site or central kitchen to contracting with a school district or private vendor, there are many options for operating and administering meal programs.
* **[If you prefer, insert your own reason here.]**

For these reasons, we strongly support AB 842 and request your aye vote for this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

**[Your name and title]**

**[Your organization, if applicable]**

cc: Assemblymember Monique Limon (author) via Jimmy Wittrock

Melissa Cannon, California Food Policy Advocates (cosponsor)