**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.

**What’s next:** AB 842 is one step away from becoming law. The final hurdle is winning the support (and signature!) of Governor Newsom.

**How you can help:** We encourage organizations and individuals to use this sample letter or write their own letter in support of AB 842. Governor Newsom can act on AB 842 at any time before the end of September, so please voice your support as soon as possible.

**PLEASE EMAIL YOUR LETTER OF SUPPORT NOW!**

**Email your letter** **to:** Leg.Unit@gov.ca.gov, jimmy.wittrock@asm.ca.gov & melissa@cfpa.net.

**Organizations**: be sure to submit your letter on letterhead.

**Individuals**: be sure to include your mailing address in your letter.

**Questions?** Contact Melissa Cannon at 209.200.8446 or melissa@cfpa.net.

**Want to do more?** After you submit your letter,visit <https://cfpa.net/ab842callemailtweet/> for other actions you can take to help ensure AB 842 is signed into law.

[Insert letterhead or mailing address]

[Date]

The Honorable Gavin Newsom

Governor of California

State Capitol Building

Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Governor Newsom,

[I am/Name of your organization is] writing in support of AB 842 (Limón), a bill that will fight hunger, advance equity, and support student success by guaranteeing access to a nutritious, free or low-cost meal each day for our youngest public school students.

More than 263,000 children are currently served by California’s public preschool programs. Unlike all other low-income public school students, they are not protected by the existing state law that grants students in need access to school meals. AB 842 would guarantee that all low-income students attending a public school, including our youngest learners who haven’t yet reached kindergarten, have access to at least one nutritious, free or low-cost meal each program day.

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

* **[I/We] believe in food and fairness for all children.** All students, regardless of their grade, 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 student should go hungry in a California public school.
* **We need this bill now. Our most vulnerable children can’t wait.** Public preschool is a key part of the social safety net. Unfortunately, not all public preschools are meeting low-income children’s most basic and fundamental needs. Although the vast majority of California's public schools are making meals available to low-income children, there are too many examples of those that do not. We need policies now to protect our youngest learners from hunger. [I/We] commend your efforts to establish a well-informed Master Plan for Early Learning, and this solution is a strong first step we must advance now.
* **This change is feasible and categorically funded.** All California public schools and state preschool programs are entitled to state and federal funds to operate meal programs. From self-prep in an on-site or central kitchen to contracting with a school district, child care center, or private vendor, there are many options for operating and administering meal programs.
* **[If you prefer, insert your own reason here.]**

For all of these reasons, we respectfully request your signature on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

[Your name and title]

[Your organization, if applicable]

cc: Assemblymember Monique Limón (author) via Jimmy Wittrock

California Food Policy Advocates (co-sponsor) via Melissa Cannon