

For Release on March 28, 2012

Contact: Tia Shimada at tia@cfpa.net or 510-433-1122 ext. 109



AB 1678: Curbed Bill Does Not Derail Efforts

Today Assemblymember William Monning (D-Carmel) announced that Assembly Bill (AB) 1678, sponsored by California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA), will not proceed further in the 2012 legislative process. The bill was crafted to protect and promote student health by addressing mobile food vending that targets students near public schools.

“Every day, ice cream trucks park just steps away from our campus to sell sodas, Hot Cheetos, and other unhealthy snacks to my students,” said Stephanie Wallace, principal of San Marcos Elementary School. “Students and schools shouldn’t be confronted with this kind of vending. We’re already fighting an uphill battle to promote nutrition and educate our students about healthy choices.”

George Manalo-LeClair, executive director of CFPA, said, “CFPA will continue to advocate for statewide policies that contend with the array of mobile food vending – from ice cream trucks to pushcarts – used to target students near school campuses.

Assemblymember Monning has provided great leadership on this issue. We admire his commitment to children’s health. We appreciate his efforts to focus discussions about AB 1678 on the needs of California’s students. We also appreciate the efforts of AB 1678’s supporters, including the parents, principals, community-based organizations, and statewide organizations like the California State PTA, who have spoken out on this issue.”

Working to set the stage for future action, CFPA will continue its efforts to convey the impact of mobile food vending on California’s students. Of particular concern is mobile vending that increases students’ access to soda and junk food that California has already removed from school campuses in order to promote student health.

Tia Shimada, the staff member leading CFPA’s efforts on AB 1678, said, “No one should profit at the expense of students’ health. AB 1678 may be curbed, but CFPA’s efforts are not derailed. Student-targeted mobile food vending is an ongoing problem and we will continue advocating for statewide solutions.”

###

California Food Policy Advocates is a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well being of low income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food.

www.cfpa.net