**AB 1871 (Bonta) Sample Letter of Support**

In January 2018, Assemblymember Bonta introduced AB 1871, legislation that will fight hunger and advance equity by guaranteeing that all low-income public school students – including charter school students – have access to nutritious, affordable school meals.

**What’s next:** The next step in making school meals a reality for all low-income public school students is to win the support of the Senate Appropriations Committee, chaired by Senator Portantino.

**How you can help:** We encourage organizations and individuals to use this sample letter or write their own letter in support of AB 1871.

**Please submit your letter of support now!**

Email letters to[Lenin.DelCastillo@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Lenin.DelCastillo@sen.ca.gov),[Alma.Barreras@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Alma.Barreras@asm.ca.gov) & [tia@cfpa.net](mailto:tia@cfpa.net).

Organizations: be sure to submit your letter on letterhead.

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

Questions? Contact Tia Shimada at 510.433.1122 x109 or [tia@cfpa.net](mailto:tia@cfpa.net).

**[Insert letterhead or mailing address]**

**[Date]**

The Honorable Anthony Portantino

Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee

State Capitol, Room 3086

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Support for AB 1871 – Don’t Make Hunger a School Choice**

Dear Chairman Portantino,

**[I am/Name of your organization is]** writing in support of AB 1871(Bonta), legislation that will fight hunger, advance equity, and support student success by guaranteeing that low-income charter school students have access to school meals.

More than 340,000 low-income students attend California charter schools. 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 1871 would guarantee that all low-income public school students, including charter school students, have access to at least one nutritious, free or low-cost school meal each school day.

**[I/We]** support AB 1871 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 deserve equitable access to the basic resources that support their success, including school meals. To close the achievement gap for low-income students and students of color, we must guarantee equity of opportunity and resources.
* **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.
* **California should not make hunger a school choice.** Charter schools are meant to expand choice in public education and, by law, are open to all students, including low income students. School meals are a critical resource for all students in need, no matter which public school they attend.
* **This change is feasible and categorically funded.** Like all public schools, charter 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 school meal programs.
* **[If you prefer, insert your own reason here.]**

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

Sincerely,

**[Your name and title]**

**[Your organization, if applicable]**

cc: Assemblymember Rob Bonta c/o Alma Barreras

Tia Shimada, California Food Policy Advocates (sponsor)