**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 Education Committee.

**How you can help:** We encourage organizations and individuals to use this sample letter or write their own letter in support of AB 1871. Letters of support are helpful even if you previously submitted one when the bill was moving through the Assembly.

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

Email letters toAlma.Barreras@asm.ca.gov, Ian.Johnson@sen.ca.gov & 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.

**[Insert letterhead or mailing address]**

**[Date]**

The Honorable Ben Allen

Chair, Senate Education Committee

State Capitol, Room 5072

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Support for AB 1871 – Equitable Access to School Meals**

Dear Chairman Allen,

**[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: Tia Shimada, California Food Policy Advocates (sponsor)