**AB 2054 Sample Support Letter**

AB 2054 (Thurmond) will help fight hunger by preparing California to implement federally funded Summer EBT for Children (SEBTC). SEBTC is proven to prevent food insecurity by providing nutrition assistance for the purchase of groceries when school is out of session and children lose access to school meals.

**How you can help:** we encourage organizations and individuals to use this sample letter or write their own letter in support of AB 2054 and California’s kids.

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

**Email letters to** **Debra.Cooper@sen.ca.gov**, **Michael.Lucien@asm.ca.gov** **&** **tia@cfpa.net****.**

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

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

Questions? Please contact Tia Shimada at 510.433.1122 x109 or tia@cfpa.net.

**[Date]**

The Honorable Ricardo Lara

State Capitol, Room 5050

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Support for AB 2054 – Fight Hunger with Summer EBT for Children**

Dear Senator Lara,

**[I am/Name of your organization is]** writing in support of AB 2054 (Thurmond), legislation that will help fight hunger by preparing California to implement federally funded Summer EBT for Children (SEBTC). SEBTC is proven to decrease food insecurity by providing nutrition assistance for the purchase of groceries when school is out of session and children lose access to school meals.

No child should go hungry – especially in a state that produces much of the nation’s food. Yet, across California, two in every five low-income households with children cannot consistently afford enough to eat.

The summer is a particularly vulnerable time for low-income children: essential resources, such as nutritious, affordable school meals, are unavailable once summer break begins. Three million children in California who are eligible to receive free or reduced-price school meals miss out federally funded meals during the summer.

Summer EBT for Children is one clear solution to the complex problem of child hunger. Federal demonstration projects have shown that SEBTC decreases food insecurity and improves the quality of children’s diets during the summer months. In fact, SEBTC eliminates the most severe form of food insecurity for one-third of children who would otherwise experience it. As federal lawmakers expand SEBTC, **[I/We]** are calling on state lawmakers to harness those resources for California.

AB 2054 would direct State agencies to design an SEBTC system, building upon existing EBT technology, and pursue all available federal authority and funding to operate SEBTC.

**[I/We]** support AB 2054 because **[choose one or more of the following reasons or add your own]**

* **SEBTC means federal dollars for California and food for children in need.** Summer EBT for Children is an efficient, effective method for connecting low-income children with nutritious food that is essential for good health, optimal development, and academic achievement. By providing resources for the purchase of groceries, SEBTC will also draw federal dollars into California’s state and local economies. Bringing SEBTC to California is good for kids, good for local communities, and good for the state.
* **SEBTC works but it’s not at work in California.** Since 2011, Summer EBT for Children has been tested in eight states and two tribal nations. These tests show that SEBTC – a federally funded resource -- prevents hunger and improves children’s diets. California leaders should seize every opportunity to bring SEBTC to our state.
* **Children deserve nutritious meals every day of the year in order to learn, grow, and achieve at their fullest potential.** With the sixth largest economy in the world, California – unacceptably -- also has the nation’s highest rate of child poverty. SEBTC will help ensure that California kids have the nutritious food they need to be healthy and succeed.

**[If you prefer, insert your own reason here.]**

Thank you for your consideration. **[I/We]** respectfully request your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

**[Your name and title]**

**[Your organization, if applicable]**

cc: Assemblymember Tony Thurmond (author)

Tia Shimada, California Food Policy Advocates (sponsor)