

March 29, 2017

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, Chair
Assembly Committee on Education
1020 N Street, Room 159
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: Assembly Bill 841 (Weber) - Support

Dear Chairperson O'Donnell,

On behalf of California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA), I am writing to express our support for Assembly Bill 841, which would prohibit the marketing of junk food that does not meet the "Smart Snack" standards of the 2010 Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA).

CFPA is a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing access to nutritious, affordable food. The federal nutrition programs play a key role in ensuring children can access free or low-cost nutritious meals. The HHFKA set new policy for USDA's core child nutrition programs. Under these regulations, schools participating in national school meal programs are required to serve healthy food options that meet "Smart Snacks" standards. Last session, SB 1169 aligned sections of state Education Code that govern competitive food with the HHFKA requirements. Last year, USDA finalized rules requiring schools to ensure that any food or beverages marketed on school campuses during the school day meet "Smart Snacks" standards.

California has been a national model for state policies that support quality nutrition in schools. However, in light of the new HHFKA rules, some California school districts may be confused by requirements of the new federal regulations. AB 841 will codify federal regulations that eliminate the marketing of unhealthy foods in schools and will help address the confusion and potential for poor compliance if federal and state rules and regulations are not aligned.

California has long been a leader in enacting nutrition policies that strengthen school food programs. AB 841 will ensure that all students receive a consistent set of messages about healthy eating. For these reasons, CFPA respectfully requests an "aye" vote on AB 841.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Cannon'.

Melissa Cannon
Nutrition Policy Advocate
California Food Policy Advocates

cc: Assemblymember Dr. Shirley Weber; American Heart Association; Public Health Advocates