



March 27, 2017

The Honorable Ed Hernandez, Chair
Senate Health Committee
State Capitol, Room
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Ben Allen, Chair
Senate Education Committee
State Capitol, Room
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 557 (Hernandez)

Dear Senator Hernandez and Senator Allen,

California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) is in support of SB 557, which will fight hunger and reduce food waste by extending Good Samaritan laws and protections that encourage community food reclamation efforts to food items left on public school cafeteria share tables.

CFPA is a statewide public policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. Throughout our 25 years of experience, we've worked to ensure that low-income children and communities have access to healthy and affordable food.

School meals are very effective at fighting the devastating effects of child hunger. However, food waste has always been a problem for large institutions like schools. Creative solutions are needed to reduce waste. Discarded food is a lost opportunity for improving nutrition and a waste of precious resources. Proactive strategies- including share tables- encourage students to safely save some food items to eat at a later time, or to utilize excess food for better purposes than wasting in the trash. Schools should be encouraged to use share tables in cafeterias, and to donate any items left over for community consumption. LAUSD and other California districts have [implemented best practices](#) in partnership with their local health departments- these practices should be encouraged statewide.

CFPA supports SB 557 because it is a smart step to fight hunger and reduce food waste in schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracey Patterson", written in a cursive style.

Tracey Patterson
Director of Legislation
California Food Policy Advocates