

April 4, 2017

The Honorable Monique Limón
State Capitol, Rm 4167
Sacramento, CA 94249



1970 Broadway, Suite 760
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 433-1122
www.cfpa.net

Re: Support for AB 453 (Limón)

Dear Assemblymember Limón:

On behalf of the California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA), I am writing to express our support for AB 453, which would help fight college hunger by establishing standards and incentives that encourage public colleges to reduce hunger on campus.

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. For over two decades, CFPA has incubated and advanced innovative policy solutions to help create a more food-secure California.

Despite the efforts of CFPA and our partners, hunger continues to threaten the success of California's college students. A growing number of students enrolled in postsecondary education are showing up to class hungry because there isn't enough food at home. A study released last year by the California State University found that up to 24 percent of students did not have access to enough food. These students are more likely to drop out and fall behind their peers academically. As awareness of this critical issue has grown, many colleges and universities have taken actions to reduce college hunger. However, colleges and universities are handling the problem differently. This bill takes important steps to establish standards for addressing hunger at California's public colleges and encourages participation in programs - such as CalFresh - that are known to increase access to healthy, affordable food.

For those reasons, CFPA supports AB 453 and thanks you for your leadership to encourage California colleges and universities to support the success of their students by reducing hunger on campus.

Sincerely,

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

Melissa Cannon
Nutrition Policy Advocate
California Food Policy Advocates

cc: Jessica Bartholow, Western Center on Law and Poverty
Assemblymember Jose Medina, Chair, Committee on Higher Education