



February 17, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Senate Appropriations Committee Chair
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 54 (de León)

Dear Senator Lara,

California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) writes in strong support of SB 54 (de León). SB 54 will protect the safety and well-being of all Californians by ensuring our state and local resources are not used to fuel deportations and that our schools and health facilities remain accessible to all.

CFPA is a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. In order to reduce hunger and break the cycle of poor health and poverty, we must work hard to maintain a level of trust in the institutions that serve all Californians, particularly schools and health care facilities.

Now, more than ever, California must stand up to protect our values of inclusion and equality. Fear will not stand between our residents and our commitment to education, health, and access to justice for all. SB 54 would disentangle local law enforcement from the business of deportations by prohibiting local resources from being used for immigration enforcement.

In addition, it would ensure equal access to state agencies by having each agency review their confidentiality practices in order to ensure that eligible individuals are not deterred from seeking services or engaging with state agencies. Lastly, the bill will also create safe spaces at schools, courthouses and health care facilities, by limiting immigration enforcement at these locations.

If we are to build a safe, healthy, and more just California, we must stand up for all of our residents—regardless of immigration status. The California Values Act will ensure that California stands with all immigrants and provides a safeguard against divisive and discriminatory policies. CFPA is proud to strongly support SB 54. Thank you for your leadership on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracey Patterson".

Tracey Patterson, MPH
Director of Legislation
California Food Policy Advocates

