

March 10, 2017

The Honorable Senator Bill Monning
Capitol Office
State Capitol, Room 313
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 651-4917



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

Re: SB-300 Sugar-sweetened beverages: health warnings

Dear Assemblymember Monning:

On behalf of California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA), I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 300. SB 300 prevents the distribution, sale, and offering of sugar sweetened beverages that do not contain a warning label about the harmful health effects that result from the consumption of drinks with added sugars and require retailers to also display warning signs.

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. This includes increasing access to more healthful beverages, such as water, and decreasing access to less healthful beverages, such as those that are sugar-sweetened. Increasing the consumption of water, for example, is a simple and effective obesity prevention strategy, which is why CFPA has and continues to support policy solutions that will improve access to and consumption of water and healthful beverages.

The research that sugary beverages have a direct link with diabetes is incontrovertible; the links to obesity are even more established. We also know that the consumption of sugary drinks is a major driver of fatty liver disease, heart disease, stroke, pancreatic cancer, and kidney disease. Requiring a warning label about the harmful effects of consuming drinks with added sugars will protect consumers and promote informed purchasing decisions, leading consumers towards healthier beverages.

While we fully support SB 300 and the progress it makes toward helping Californians make healthy lifestyle choices, we acknowledge that this legislation is an incremental step to ensuring all Californians have access to more healthful beverages. We urge the Legislature and Governor Brown to do more to support Californians access to healthful beverages by providing funding to bring safe drinking water to disadvantaged communities.

Sincerely,

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

Melissa Cannon
Nutrition Policy Advocate
California Food Policy Advocates

Cc: Senator Hernandez, Chair, Senate Committee on Health