**Letters of Support Needed for AB 1678!**

**Building Healthy School Environments: Curb Mobile Vending to Kids**

Assemblymember Bill Monning has introduced AB 1678, a bill to protect and promote student health by restricting mobile food vending that targets children near school campuses.

The bill will likely be heard by the Assembly Health Committee on April 17, 2012. We are asking supporters to please fax letters of support to Assemblymember Bill Monning, the author of AB 1678, at 916.319.2127. You can also scan and then email your letter to Bethany.Westfall@asm.ca.gov in Assemblymember Monning’s office.

**Please submit letters no later than close of business Monday, April 9, 2012.**

Below is a sample letter that we hope will help organizations and individuals in writing their own letters of support. Please do send us a copy of your letter via fax (510.433.1131) or email (tia@cfpa.net). Thank you!

Have questions? Please contact Tia Shimada at 510.433.1122 x109 or tia@cfpa.net

The Honorable William Monning

State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for AB 1678

Dear Assemblymember Monning,

[Please insert your name or organization] writes in strong support of AB 1678, legislation to promote and protect student health by restricting mobile food vending that targets children near school campuses. No one should profit at the expense of children’s health.

Before, during, and after school, mobile vendors converge near campuses to sell chips, soda, and a host of other unhealthy snacks. These vendors are capitalizing on the portability of their businesses to specifically and intentionally target kids as consumers. This affects students of all ages on open and closed campuses alike. Mobile food vending near school campuses can:

*[Please choose one or more of the following impacts to highlight, sharing the concerns of your organization/community]:*

* Negatively impact student health and safety;
* Draw participation away from school meal programs;
* Reinforce stigma associated with participating in the school meal programs; and
* Jeopardize the fiscal viability of school nutrition services.

Closed campuses alone do not protect students from the negative impacts of mobile vending. In some cases, mobile vending literally reaches students through school fences. [If this is a practice that happens in your community, please consider elaborating here.]In all cases, students on closed campuses must still enter and exit school each day. None of our students should face a gauntlet of mobile vending outside of the school gates.

*[Below, please describe improvements your organization/community has made to school nutrition environments and (2) why your organization/community is concerned about mobile food vending that targets schools.]*

School nutrition has been the focus of considerable attention and action over the past decade. Our state has improved, and continues to improve, the quality of school meals. We have also removed soda and junk food from school campuses. In my community … [please insert examples of the school nutrition improvements that your organization/community has initiated or supported]. Allowing mobile vendors to treat school environments like commercial zones undermines all of these efforts and the important health messages that they convey to our students.

Certainly, parents play a primary role in establishing their children’s healthy eating habits. [Please describe ways in which your organization/community helps parents address nutrition, engage in nutrition education, etc.] Similarly, schools should be safe havens for students: environments that foster health, nutrition, and academic achievement. Allowing mobile vending to specifically and intentionally target students undercuts the diligent efforts of parents and schools.

As you are already aware, obesity and related chronic diseases are serious threats to the social and economic future of California. One in every three children is on course to develop Type II diabetes, a life-threatening but preventable disease. Already, over 10 percent of California’s kids and nearly 30 percent of California’s teens are overweight or obese. In my community … [Please insert related statistics from your county’s nutrition profile, available here: <http://cfpa.net/county-profiles-2010>]. Preventing obesity will put our students on a path to life-long health and success. AB 1678 is an important step to doing just that.

We thank you for introducing AB 1678 and look forward to supporting this important bill throughout the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Organization

CC: California Food Policy Advocates; Your own Assemblymember