



April 4, 2016

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Room 4162  
Sacramento, CA 94249

**RE: Assembly Bill 2124 (E. Garcia) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Garcia:

The above listed organizations, which work directly in, or on behalf of, small and rural disadvantaged communities (DACs) throughout the state, write in support Assembly Bill 2124 (AB 2124) authored by Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia. This bill would improve school children's access to safe drinking water by establishing a \$10 million grant program to be administered by State Water Resources Control Board for water bottle filling station installations and other drinking water improvements in California schools.

Schools throughout California have been impacted by unsafe drinking water at the tap, and many schools face recurring challenges to providing safe water. In many rural California communities and schools, inadequate infrastructure and contaminated water are commonplace. Preliminary research by Community Water Center suggests 813 - 1,522 schools were impacted by at least one Maximum Contaminant Level violation over a 2003-2014 study period. Lack of significant investments to upgrade schools' infrastructure, including water fountains and pipes, now poses health risks to students' drinking water from school water fountains.

In addition, increased consumption of water is crucial to fighting preventable health risks, such as obesity, and is essential to students' health and academic performance. Accessible, clean drinking water is vital for students as they spend many of their waking hours during the weekday in school.

AB 2124 is necessary to help advance the Human Right to Water in schools statewide. A \$10 million commitment in state funding could greatly improve safe drinking water access for up to 400,000 schoolchildren that lack adequate access to safe drinking water at school.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Asha Kreiling at 916-706-3346.

Sincerely,

*Asha Kreiling*, Policy & Communications Analyst, Community Water Center  
*Phoebe Seaton*, Co-Director, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability  
*Jennifer Clary*, Water Program Manager, Clean Water Action  
*Tracey Patterson*, Director of Legislation, California Food Policy Advocates