



436 14th Street  
Suite 1220  
Oakland  
CA 94612

T: 510.433.1122  
F: 510.433.1132  
[www.cfpa.net](http://www.cfpa.net)

March 20, 2012  
The Honorable Roger Dickinson  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Via facsimile 916.319.2109

Re: SUPPORT - AB 1917

Dear Assembly Member Dickinson,

California Food Policy Advocates writes in support of AB 1917, thanking you for introducing legislation to support and strengthen the school meal programs by ensuring their financial integrity.

The K-12 school meal programs provide essential nutrition and health benefits to CA students while supporting the state economy by bringing federal reimbursement dollars into California. These program operations rely on the USDA funding in addition to revenue from paid meals in order to function, usually with incredibly tight margins. In order to ensure that all monies allocated to the meal program are going towards its operation, it is critical that the process of entering in to a contract with food service management companies is transparent for K-12 public school districts. Any cost saving measures that are uncovered by food service management companies should not be withheld from the district. Rather, the rebates, discounts, allowances and incentives should be passed on to the school district. These funds can support meal program improvements that would otherwise be difficult to sustain.

We thank you for introducing AB 1917 and look forward to supporting this critical legislation as it continues to move through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Markell Lewis".

Markell Lewis  
on behalf of  
California Food Policy Advocates