



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

August 30, 2018

The Honorable Edmund "Jerry" G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support – AB 2785 (Rubio): College Student Lactation Accommodation

Dear Governor Brown,

California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) writes in strong support of AB 2785 (Rubio), which will ensure that lactating students attending California Community Colleges (CCC) and California State University (CSU) are provided reasonable accommodations on their respective campuses to express breast milk, breastfeed an infant, or address other needs related to breastfeeding.

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. There is no food more nutritious than breast milk, and we feel strongly that students who are breastfeeding while furthering their education should not have to worry about their ability to feed their baby.

Breastfeeding is important for maternal and infant health. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months of life and continued breastfeeding through at least the first year. Right now, many parenting students in CCC or CSU campuses do not have access to breastfeeding support. While current California law requires that such accommodations be provided to students in K-12 schools, this code section does not apply to CCC or CSU students. A parent needs to be able to nurse or pump milk every 2-3 hours to establish and maintain a healthy milk flow for their child. For students who nurse or pump milk for their children, CCC and CSU campuses should provide consistent and adequate lactation accommodations across all campuses.

AB 2785 addresses the barriers parenting students face to continue breastfeeding. We urge you to sign AB 2785 for the health and well-being of California families.

Sincerely,

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

Tracey Patterson
Director of Legislation
California Food Policy Advocates

Cc: Assemblymember Blanca Rubio