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May 23, 2018

The Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1192 - Healthy Beverages in Kids' Meals - Support

Dear Assemblymember Jim Wood:

On behalf of California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA), I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 1192, which makes healthy beverages the default drink option in kids' meals. Providing healthy beverages such as water as the default beverage choice is an effective strategy for improving our children's health, which is why CFPA supports this piece of legislation.

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.

Research linking sugary beverages to diabetes is well 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 that a healthy drink is the default drink option in all restaurants serving bundled meals with beverages marketed to children will lead consumers towards healthier beverages. Given the frequent consumption of restaurant meals by children, this bill has the potential to have large and sweeping positive health impacts.

California Food Policy Advocates is proud to support SB 1192 to provide parents with healthier options when purchasing kids' meals and respectfully requests your "aye" vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Cannon", written over a horizontal line.

Melissa Cannon
Policy Advocate

California Food Policy Advocates

Cc:

Flojaune Cofer, Public Health Advocates (co-sponsor)

Kula Koenig, American Heart Association (co-sponsor)

Rebecca DeLaRosa, Latino Coalition for a Healthy California (co-sponsor)

Kris Lev-Twombly, California State Alliance of YMCAs (co-sponsor)