



June 14, 2019

Assemblymember Ash Kalra
Chair of the Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment
1020 N Street, Room 155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support – Workplace Lactation Accommodation SB 142 (Wiener)

Dear Assemblymember Kalra:

California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) urges your signature on SB 142 (Wiener) - Workplace Lactation Accommodation.

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 no one who chooses to breastfeed should have to worry about access to a clean, private space to pump milk, and no one should have to fear negative consequences at work just to feed their baby.

Parents are better able to start breastfeeding and keep at it when the workplace they return to provides proper support and resources. Under current law, many working parents – especially low wage workers – do not have access to proper workplace breastfeeding supports, including proper lactation accommodations. Yet, breastfeeding is one of the best preventive health measures for both babies and mothers and a key strategy to improve public health. In fact, if 90% of California women were able to breastfeed according to medical recommendations, \$224,824,908 million of direct health care costs would be saved annually.

SB 142 ensures all breastfeeding parents have the workplace supports they need by requiring employers to have a written lactation policy and ensuring all lactation spaces

meet minimum requirements to create a safe and comfortable space for lactating employees. These supports will ensure that working parents never have to choose between continuing to breastfeed and returning to work.

We thank you for your support in ensuring the health and well-being of California families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elyse Homel Vitale". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elyse Homel Vitale, MPH
Senior Advocate
California Food Policy Advocates

Cc: Cassidy Denny, Senator Wiener's Office, Cassidy.Denny@sen.ca.gov
Jenna Gerry, jgerry@legalaidatwork.org