



February 8, 2007

The Honorable Tom Torlakson
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

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RE: SB 20 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Torlakson:

California Food Policy Advocates, whose mission is to promote the health and well-being of low-income Californians by improving their access to nutritious and affordable food, is pleased to support SB 20, which would take a number of steps to improve school nutrition.

Over the last several years, California has taken several steps to improve student health, most notably by removing soda and high-calorie snacks from schools. With these nutritional offenders *out* it is imperative we take additional steps *in* schools, specifically the meals served through the federal school lunch and breakfast programs. We are therefore pleased that SB 20 offers additional reimbursement and improved nutrition standards for school meals.

We are very pleased that this legislation includes child development centers. Given that consequences of poor diets are now being observed in pre-schoolers, attention to what is served in child care and early centers is critical.

We are also pleased that SB 20 is has proposed the most comprehensive package of meal improvements to date. Establishing state standards to serve lower fat milk, more whole grains, and more fruits and vegetables makes sense. In addition to removing trans fats and deep frying, these are critical steps to take.

The two stages of raised reimbursement offered in the bill seems fair in connection with the important changes schools will make to comply with these standards. We suggest you link the first tier of increased reimbursement (from \$0.16 to \$0.21) to some of the improved standards, such as trans fats and deep frying, and the second phase of increased monies (\$0.21 to \$0.30) tied to whole grains and more produce. The increased expectations on schools must equal the increased reimbursement.

We are pleased to offer our support of SB 20. CFPA applauds your leadership in improving child nutrition.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Hecht
Executive Director