

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
State Capitol, Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814



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RE: SB 949 (Jackson) – Support

Dear Senator Jackson:

California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) is pleased to support SB 949 (Jackson), which would establish the Distinguished After School Health (DASH) Recognition Program to certify afterschool programs that meet standards that promote students health, particularly healthy eating and physical activity.

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 and affordable food. There are more than 4,400 publicly funded after school programs in California serving more than 1.5 million children, who predominantly come from low-income families. Afterschool programs serving low-income students offer valuable academic enrichment. They are also crucial opportunities to provide students with nutritious food, while modelling healthy eating behaviors and allowing opportunities for physical activity.

CFPA supports the evidence-based standards included as elements of the DASH Recognition Program that SB 949 would establish. We believe that standards such as these should be encouraged and incorporated in all afterschool programming serving low-income children. The federal nutrition programs allow schools and community organizations to provide healthy meals and snacks to children participating in afterschool activities. CFPA is particularly supportive of the promotion of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk Supper Program as a means by which after school programs can provide healthy, nutritious meals free of charge to students as a part of the DASH Recognition Program.

CFPA supports SB 949 and thanks you for introducing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracey Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tracey Patterson, MPH
Nutrition Policy Advocate

CC: JC Holt, California State Alliance of YMCAs (sponsor)

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