CALIFORNIA FOOD POLICY ADVOCATES

Los Angeles Office
205 S. Broadway
Suite 402
Los Angeles
CA 90012

T: 213.482.8200
F: 213.482.8203
www.cfpa.net

June 13, 2016

Senator Mike McGuire, Chair
Senate Human Services Committee
State Capitol, Room 5064
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support AB 1747 (Weber) – College Student Hunger

Dear Chairman McGuire:

I am writing on behalf of California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) to express our support for Assembly Bill 1747 (Weber) that offers tools to address hunger on our college campuses.

CFPA is a nonprofit, 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. Throughout our more than 20 years of experience, we've worked to ensure that eligible California families have access to essential nutrition resources, including CalFresh and other federal nutrition programs.

A growing number of low-income California university and college students are unable to meet their basic needs, including food and housing. A year-long study released this month by the California State University found that as many as 24 percent of students could be going hungry. Reducing hunger among low-income college students not only reduces hardships, but also reduces barriers to graduation, leveraging investments already committed to this student demographic through CalGrants and public college funding. It also reduces future dependency on public benefits by increasing ability of students to graduate and attain living wage employment.

AB 1747 offers several tools to address food insecurity and hunger among California's low-income students, therefore improving the likelihood of their academic success:

- Requires California's public Universities & Colleges to participate in their counties' CalFresh Restaurant Meal program to prevent hunger among elderly, disabled & homeless students;
- Establishes a program to improve coordination between Campus Food Pantries and California Food Banks;
- Codifies existing policy regarding CalFresh outreach on campus.

For all of these reasons, CFPA supports AB 1747 and respectfully requests your "Aye" vote.

Sincerely,

Jared Call
Managing Nutrition Policy Advocate

CC: Honorable Dr. Shirley Weber, California State Assembly (Author)
Jessica Bartholow, Western Center on Law and Poverty (Co-Sponsor)