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The Honorable Richard Bloom  
State Capitol Building  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2782 (Bloom): Healthy CA Fund – Letter of Support**

Dear Assemblymember Bloom:

California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) supports AB 2782 (Bloom): Healthy CA Fund. AB 2782 will require a 2 cents-per-ounce fee on sugary drinks. The revenue from this health impact fee will equip the state with dedicated resources to invest in communities that are disproportionately impacted by type 2 diabetes, dental disease, heart disease & stroke, and related sugary drink consumption diseases.

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. 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. Increasing the consumption of water, for example, is a simple and effective obesity prevention strategy, which is why CFPA has and continues to support policy solutions that will improve access to and consumption of more healthful beverages.

Diabetes is one of the leading causes of death for Latinos, African Americans, Native Americans, and Asian Pacific Islanders in California. Over 43% of the Latinos, 40.3% Native Americans, 39.3% of African Americans and 38.7% of Asian Pacific Islanders, admitted to California hospitals in 2011 had diabetes. Strides have been made in education and awareness of healthier eating, and increasing physical activity, but we need a dedicated revenue source to fully address this epidemic and fully address the environmental and physical conditions that take away from our communities' quality of life and life expectancy.

If we do nothing, it is predicted that 50% of Latino and African American children born since the year 2000 will develop type 2 diabetes during their lifetime.<sup>i</sup>

The research that sugary beverages have a direct link with diabetes is incontrovertible; the links to obesity are even more established.<sup>iiiiiiv</sup> We also know that the consumption of sugary drinks is a major driver of fatty liver disease,<sup>vi</sup> heart disease, stroke,<sup>vii</sup> pancreatic cancer,<sup>viii</sup> and kidney disease.<sup>ix</sup>

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AB 2782 will enable the State to invest in communities disproportionately burdened by diseases related to the consumption of sugary drinks, especially Type 2 diabetes. This proposed dedicated revenue source is needed to directly offset the health impacts that disproportionately impact our communities.

We support AB 2782 because it is sensible public policy. The adverse health effects of the overconsumption of sugar-sweetened beverages are harming our communities, and its effects pose a significant economic burden on our state that requires urgent action.

For these reasons, CFPA is proud to support this important policy.

Sincerely,



Tracey Patterson  
Director of Legislation  
California Food Policy Advocates

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<sup>i</sup> Center for Disease Control and Prevntion. <http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/data/statistics/2014StatisticsReport.html>

<sup>ii</sup> Hu FB, Malik VS. Sugar-sweetened beverages and risk of obesity and type 2 diabetes: Epidemiologic evidence. *Physiol Behav* 2010;100:46-54.

<sup>iii</sup> Vartanian LR, Schwartz MB, Brownell KD. Effects of soft drink consumption on nutrition and health: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Am J Public Health* 2007;97:667-675.

<sup>iv</sup> de Koning L, Malik VS, Rimm EB, Willett WC, Hu FB. Sugar-sweetened and artificially sweetened beverage consumption and risk of type 2 diabetes in men. *Am J Clin Nutr* 2011;93:1321-1327.

<sup>v</sup> Malik VS, Popkin BM, Bray GA, Després JP, Willett WC, Hu FB. Sugar-sweetened beverages and the risk of metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes: A meta-analysis. *Diabetes Care* 2010;33:2477-2483.

<sup>vi</sup> Abid A, Taha O, Nseir W, Farah R, Grovsovki M, Assy N. Soft drink consumption is associated with fatty liver disease independent of metabolic syndrome. *J Hepatol.* 2009. 5:918-24.

<sup>vii</sup> Bernstein AM, de Konig L, Flint AJ, Rexrode KM, Willett WC. Soda consumption and the risk of stroke in men and women. *Am J Clin Nutr* 2011; 93:1321-1327.

<sup>viii</sup> Mueller NT, Odegaard A, Anderson K, et al. Soft drink and juice consumption and risk of pancreatic cancer: The Singapore Chinese HEath Study. *Cancer Epidem Biomar* 2010: 19:447-455.

<sup>ix</sup> Saldana TM, Basso O, Darden R, Sandler DP. Carbonated beverages and chronic kidney disease. *Epidemiology.* 2007 4:501-506.