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March 14, 2014

The Honorable Holly Mitchell
California State Senator, 26th District
State Capitol Building, Room 4082
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 912 – A Healthy State Vending Policy – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Mitchell:

California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) supports SB 912, which preserves current law by removing the sunset on nutritional guidelines for food and beverages sold in vending machines in state buildings.

CFPA is a policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. In addition to strengthening the federal child nutrition programs, CFPA believes it is equally important to strengthen food and beverage environments in a wider range of settings such as the workplace.

Recently, there has been considerable effort to align the federal child nutrition programs with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Implementing similar nutritional guidelines across a wider range of environments will improve the nutritional quality of foods served in those environments and further reinforce healthy eating messages.

Nearly half of our waking hours are spent at work, and the foods available in vending machines and employee cafeterias frequently determine what we eat throughout the day. As we face an obesity epidemic, it is important that California continues to be a leader in creating healthy food and beverage environments by not allowing the expiration of existing nutrition guidelines for food sold in state buildings. Additionally, gradual alignment of the current standards with the latest nutritional science will help further reduce obesity rates, as well as reduce medical costs and improve workplace productivity.

We need to ensure that California does not take a step backwards from the progress it has already made in creating healthier workplace environments. CFPA thanks you for your leadership in ensuring that healthy food and beverage options remain accessible across the state. If I can provide additional information, please contact me at 213.482.8200 x203.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ariana Oliva". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a period at the end.

Ariana Oliva
Nutrition Policy Advocate
California Food Policy Advocates