**\*\*DO NOT SUBMIT THIS PAGE WITH YOUR LETTER\*\***

**How to Submit Position Letter**

**Create an account with** [**California Advocates**](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)**:** The California Legislature will only accept letters received through an online portal system called California Advocates.

* Create an account [here](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/), if you do not already have one.
* Follow the prompts and fill out the necessary information to set up your account.
* Once you've set up your account please follow the steps below to begin the letter submission process.

**Create a letter of support:** There is a sample letter on the next page for your reference. Please place the content of the sample letter on your own organizational **letterhead**, include a **signature**, and **tailor** as desired to reflect the perspective of your organization and/or why this bill is necessary. Personal stories are important!

**Submit a letter of support:** Once signed into the portal:

* Select the “Submit a Letter” (top left corner).
* Enter the bill number (SB 225) and session type (Regular). Select “Search.”
* Ensure that the proper bill has populated and select “Next.”
* On the “Submit Letter as” page, either select or enter your organization.
* Ensure that **Senate Education Committee** is selected. This will ensure that the appropriate legislative staffer will receive a copy of your letter. Select “Next.”
* Upload your letter, select “Support” under “Stance,” and enter a subject line.
* You will be prompted to a final “Review Your Submission” page where you can make sure the information you entered is accurate.
* Once you've done so, select “Submit.”

**You're done!**

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Please submit on your letterhead

 [DATE]

The Honorable Sasha Renée Pérez

Chair, Senate Education Committee

1020 O Street, Room 2100

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for SB 225 – [Summer Meals for All]**

Dear Chair Renée Pérez :

On behalf of NAME, I would like to convey our support of **SB 225**.

In California, the world's 5th largest economy, hunger remains a daily reality for millions of families. More than one in four California households with children are food insecure. That amounts to more than 1 million households facing hunger in the state – even as cost of living continues to skyrocket. **SB 225** expands California's free summer meals program to allow a parent, guardian, or caregiver to receive a meal with their child, helping to fight hunger during these uncertain economic times.

[Information about your organization and its interest in the bill/the issue area]

[Recent data shows](https://www.cafoodbanks.org/food-insecurity-data/) 27% of California households with children experience food insecurity, with higher rates among Black (43%) and Latine (33%) families compared to white households (19%). Most food-insecure parents regularly skip meals so their children can eat, creating a destructive cycle that undermines family wellbeing. [When parents go hungry, both adult and child mental health suffers, leading to increased depression, stress, and anxiety for the entire family.](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10153634/#:~:text=Results:,/internalizing%20behaviors%2C%20and%20hyperactivity.) Hunger can cause people to become violent, irritable, or lethargic, and children living in households experiencing hunger can be at higher risk of harm.

During the summer, children have access to the federally funded Summer Food Services Program (SFSP), which provides meals during week days at specified locations like food banks, summer schools, and libraries. However, this program only serves children and teens 18 and younger, excluding caregivers. This means caregivers who bring a child to receive a free meal and who are likely hungry themselves cannot eat while their child eats and are often asked to wait outside the facility while their child eats. This is especially problematic for people with young kids or kids with disabilities who may not be able to eat alone, and does not address the larger issue of family hunger.

By allowing a caregiver to sit and eat alongside their children, **SB 225** strengthens the impact of summer meal programs, ensures young children and children with disabilities are able to participate, and supports the well-being of entire families.

Thank you for your leadership in this important measure. We strongly urge your ***“AYE”*** vote on **SB 225**.

Sincerely,

NAME, SIGNATURE
ORGANIZATION THAT YOU REPRESENT