[WRITE ON LETTERHEAD]

**SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER SB 411 (Pérez) – Stop Child Hunger Act**

Letters can be submitted on the[**Position Letter Portal**](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)*. For information on how to submit a position letter please see directions here:* [Advocacy Reference Guide](https://www.senate.ca.gov/sites/senate.ca.gov/files/2019_quick_ref_guide_advocacy.pdf)

***NOTE: please check to submit to Senate Appropriations Committee***

[Date]

The Honorable Anna Caballero

Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee

1021 O Street, Room 2200

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 411 (Pérez), Stop Child Hunger Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Caballero:

On behalf of [Name of Organization], I am writing in **SUPPORT of Senate Bill 411 (Peréz), Stop Child Hunger Act.** SB 411 address the gap in access to school meals by ensuring California maximizes federal SUN Bucks, and streamlining both families’ access and schools’ administrative processes through the implementation of a single statewide web application.

California has been a national leader in efforts to expand access to school meals for students. In 2022, the state became [the first in the nation to provide free school meals to all students](https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/universal-school-meals-help-all-california-children-thrive/), regardless of income eligibility. Building on this effort, [California implemented the SUN Bucks program in 2023](https://www.cdss.ca.gov/sun-bucks/what-are-sun-bucks), following the passage of the 2022 Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act. In 2024, California enrolled nearly 5 million eligible children.

Although California has made tremendous efforts to provide and expand access to school meals, there are still existing gaps in accessibility. According to state data, approximately 5.6 million school children are eligible for the SUN Bucks program, yet approximately 1.8 million eligible children have yet to apply. Another challenge limiting access to school meals is the reluctance of families to apply for meals if their student’s school uses a third-party platform which have raised concerns about collecting sensitive information that can be sold or compromised without notification. Additionally, SUN Bucks and on-site school meals are not available during school campus closures.

SB 411 addresses the gaps in school meal access by creating an accessible and secure year-round child nutrition safety net program through the following measures:

1. Establishing a single statewide website for families to submit their SUN Buck application.
2. Codifying key child privacy protections including preventing the sale of children’s data.
3. Requiring school meal applications to include the SUN Bucks application to improve uptake and cross-program awareness.
4. Creating the Better Out of School Time (BOOST) Nutrition benefit, built on SUN Bucks, to combat child hunger during regularly scheduled school breaks and emergency school closures.
5. Supporting school nutrition professional opportunities by increasing opportunities to work additional hours, providing on-site meal options during school breaks and emergency closures.

For all of these reasons and more, [Name of Organization] is proud to support SB 411.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Name of Organization]