[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 Assembly Appropriations Committee***

[Date]

The Honorable Buffy Wicks

Chair, Asm. Committee on Appropriations

State Capitol, Room 1020 O St. 8220

Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Chair Wicks:

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. With the federal passage of H.R. 1, inequities are likely to deepen especially for immigrant children who may lose eligibility to SNAP and Medicaid. As a result, more children will need to apply for SUN Bucks, as families avoid or are excluded from programs that offer streamline certification for SUN Bucks. 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.

SB 411 addresses the gaps in school meal access by creating an accessible and secure 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.

For all of these reasons and more, [Name of Organization] is proud to support SB 411 and respectfully urges you to support families during the hungriest time of the year.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Name of Organization]