

Senate Bill 364

School Meals for All

Senator Nancy Skinner, D-Berkeley

THIS BILL

In California, every public school child now has the right not only to a free education, but also to two nutritious meals each school day, thanks to budget actions taken in 2021. We know that good nutrition supports child learning and development, and that hunger follows children home after school hours – there is more that can be done to provide nutritious meals to California kids.

SB 364 would build upon the success of the state's new universal school meals program that provides free breakfast and lunch to TK-12 students by providing meals to students when schools are closed and adjusts data collection policies associated with school meals to further reduce the stigma of “free meals” and protect family privacy.

ISSUE

1 out of every 5 children in California experience hunger. Public education offers a unique opportunity for CA to provide children with the right to food, at the same time that we provide them with the right to education. Last year, California expanded its school meals program to ensure that all public school children have the opportunity to receive meals at school, free of charge, without extra red-tape, and without having to apply to a means-tested program.

This year, California has the opportunity to build off the successes of the School Meals for All program and continue to provide for kids. Hunger follows children home from school. This is especially true when emergency declarations force school campuses to close and when schools are out for summer and winter breaks.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the California Department of Education and the California Department of Social Services implemented the federal Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program, which allowed the state to provide food benefits to children in need even though classrooms were closed. Despite the success of the program, there is no plan to continue it post-pandemic. This is a model California could use to provide meals to children during times that school is out.

Lastly, other additions to statute on school meals, including changes to the way local school districts gather information for federal school meals reimbursement will further protect children and their families.

The provisions of SB 364 will help to further prevent hunger among California students and protect the privacy of them and their families.

SOLUTION

SB 364 seeks to combat child hunger and protect the privacy of children and their families by:

- Establishing the Better Out of School Time (BOOST) Nutrition Program, modeled on the federal P-EBT program, to prevent child hunger during regularly scheduled school breaks and emergency school closures.
- Requiring the state to maximize federal Pandemic EBT benefits for children during COVID-related school closures.
- Developing a statewide sample application for Local Education Agencies to collect information for federal school meal funding, without collecting unnecessary, sensitive information.

SUPPORT

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond (Sponsor)
California Association of Food Banks (Sponsor)
Center for Ecoliteracy (Sponsor)
NextGen California (Sponsor)
TomKat Ranch (Sponsor)
50 Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet
9to5 - Winning Justice for Working Women
AAUW of California
Agricultural Institute of Marin
Alameda County Community Food Bank
Alameda County Office of Education
Albany Unified School District
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE)
Alpine Union School District
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
Asian American for Housing and Environmental Justice (AA4HEJ)
Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement (APIFM)

Bay Area Ranchers' Cooperative Inc.
Blue Beautifully and Bluma Flower Farm
California Alliance of Nurses for Healthy
Environments
California Alternative Payment Program
Association (CAPPA)
California Asset Building Coalition
California Association for Health Physical
Education Recreation & Dance
California Association of Student Councils
California Certified Organic Farmers
California Child Care Resource & Referral
Network
California Domestic Workers Coalition
California Employment Lawyers Association
California Food and Farming Network
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
California Partnership
California School Employees Association
California School Nurses Organization
California School-Based Health Alliance
California State PTA
California Teachers Association
California Women's Law Center
California Work & Family Coalition
CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates
Californians for Pesticide Reform
Career Ladders Project
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Ceres Community Project
Child Care Law Center
Children's Advocacy Institute
Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice
Common Sense
Community Action Partnership of Orange
County
Community Action Partnership of San
Bernardino County
Community Alliance with Family Farmers
Community Health Improvement Partners
Del Norte and Tribal Lands Community Food
Council
Dolores Huerta Foundation
Eat REAL (United States Healthful Food
Council, Inc.)
Eat. Learn. Play Foundation
Ecology Center, Berkeley
Environmental Working Group
Equal Rights Advocates
Farm2People
Feeding San Diego
Fibershed
First 5 California
Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano
Food in Need of Distribution Food Bank
Food Research and Action Center

FoodCorps
Fresh Approach
Fresno Barrios Unidos
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Friends of the Earth
Frog Hollow Farm
Generation Up
Healthy Schools Campaign
Hidden Harvest
Hunger Advocacy Network
Imperial Valley Food Bank
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles
La Mesa-Spring Valley Schools
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Legal Aid at Work
Life Time Foundation
Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
LunchAssist
Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California
Martha's Kitchen
Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger
Mt. Diablo Unified School District
Mujeres Unidas y Activas
Multi-Faith Action Coalition
Napa's Operative for School food Health
(NOSH)
National Association of Social Workers,
California Chapter
National Council of Jewish Women, Sacramento
Section
National Women's Political Caucus of California
Natural Resources Defense Council
No Kid Hungry
Oakland Unified School District
Office of Kat Taylor
Open Heart Kitchen
Opportunity Institute
Parent Voices
Pesticide Action Network North America
Pleasanton Unified School District
PolicyLink
Public Health Advocates
Public Interest Law Project
Richards Grassfed Beef
River City Food Bank
Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services
San Diego Food Bank
San Diego Hunger Coalition
San Diego Unified School District
San Francisco Senior and Disability Action
San Francisco-Marin Food Bank
San Jose Bridge Communities
San Luis Coastal Unified School District
Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County
Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County
Second Harvest of the Greater Valley
Second Harvest of the Silicon Valley

SEIU California
Sierra Harvest
Southern Humboldt Unified School District
SPUR
Stemple Creek Ranch
Street Level Health Project
Stronger California Advocates Network
The Center for Popular Democracy
The Edible Schoolyard Project
The Gubbio Project
The Praxis Project
Tradeswomen, Inc.
UFCW Western States Council
unBox
Union of Concerned Scientists
Urban & Environmental Institute at Occidental
College
Voices for Progress
West Contra Costa Unified School District
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Westside Food Bank
Winning Justice for Working Women
Women's Foundation of California
Work Equity Action Fund
Yolo Food Bank

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