

**Instructions for sending this letter:**

Copy from below and personalize the **highlighted** fields.

**Then fax/mail the completed original letter to the following addressee/ number (as indicated in the template):**

The Honorable Jimmy Gomez (916) 319-2151

**With a copy to the following addressees/numbers (as indicated in the template):**

Phil Ting (916) 319-2118

Jacqueline Orpilla (510) 433-1131

**And a copy to your own State Senator and Assemblymember (where highlighted in the template):**

(Search here to find if you don't know already: <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>)

**And E-mail a copy to the following addresses:**

Jacqueline Orpilla [Jacqueline.Orpilla@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Jacqueline.Orpilla@asm.ca.gov),

Alejandra Druan [Alejandra.Duran@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Alejandra.Duran@asm.ca.gov)

Alexis Fernández [alexis@cfpa.net](mailto:alexis@cfpa.net)

**Remove these instructions prior to printing/faxing.**

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VIA U.S. MAIL AND FAX

May 22, 2015

The Honorable Jimmy Gomez  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, California 95814

FAX: (916) 319-2151

**Re: Support for AB 1240**

Dear Assemblymember Gomez,

I am writing in support of AB 1240, legislation that would bolster academic achievement and support student wellbeing by increasing access to school breakfast on thousands of campuses across California – all while drawing millions

of federal dollars into our public schools and supporting our state's economic growth.

It's not just a cliché: for California students, breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Decades of research show that breakfast plays a critical role in students' academic performance, memory, and cognitive function. Eating breakfast also improves students' physical, mental, and emotional health. By providing children with the nourishment they need, school breakfast decreases tardiness, absenteeism, and disruptive behavior, helping to create a classroom environment that's ideal for academic success.

Three out of every four students in California miss out on the health and academic benefits of a nutritious school breakfast. That means on an average school day, 4.3 million of California's students, 2.2 million of whom are low-income and at higher risk for food insecurity, aren't reached by the School Breakfast Program. Nearly 20 percent of California schools do not serve breakfast at all. Among those schools that do offer breakfast, the majority only serve it early in the morning before the start of the school day, when many children have yet to arrive.

AB 1240 would increase access to school breakfast by requiring schools to implement practical changes that integrate breakfast into the school day and make the most efficient use of existing state and federal funds.

- Schools where 40 to 60 percent of enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced-price (FRP) meals would be required to offer breakfast.
- Schools where 60 to 80 percent of students are eligible for FRP meals would be required to offer breakfast after the start of the school day.
- California's highest-need schools, where at least 80 percent of students are eligible for FRP meals, would be required to offer breakfast after the start of the school day and free of charge to all students.

For every breakfast served to a child eligible for FRP meals, a school district receives \$1.32-\$1.93 in federal funds. The State also contributes about 22 cents to each of those breakfasts. That means for less than \$40 per student, California can ensure that our most vulnerable kids receive a healthy breakfast each school day for an entire academic year.

The State's investment in school breakfast is dwarfed – six to eight times – by related federal funds that are funneled to California schools through the School Breakfast Program. Those federal funds are used to purchase food, buy equipment, pay staff, and provide other goods and services related to the operation of the School Breakfast Program. In short, the School Breakfast Program generates net economic activity for the state. In fact, a recent analysis by the Blue Sky Consulting Group shows that nearly 60 cents of every state dollar invested in school breakfast is returned to the General Fund through tax revenue from related economic activity. The analysis also shows that expanding the School Breakfast Program by just 10 percent would generate more than 1,000 jobs in California.

I support AB 1240 because

- **Schools need resources to support student achievement.** Increasing access to school breakfast will help ensure that all students are well nourished and ready to learn. Reaching more students with school breakfast will also bring much-needed federal funding into our public schools, supporting the economies of local communities and the state at large.
- **School breakfast is a win for students, schools, and the economy.** AB 1240 will bring nutritious breakfasts to California students, federal funds to California schools, and jobs to California communities.
- **We should invest state funds in programs that work.** Integrating breakfast into the school day reaches more students in need, supporting the health and academic achievement of California kids. Increasing student participation in the School Breakfast Program draws more federal dollars into California, generating economic activity and related tax revenues that return to the state coffers. Whether the focus is on children's health, students' academic achievement, or the state's economy, school breakfast works.

I respectfully ask for your support of AB 1240.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

cc: Alexis Fernández, California Food Policy Advocates (sponsor), via email only

[Your Assemblyman]

[Your Senator]