

April 26, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
1020 O Street, Ste. 7630
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 348 (Skinner), Healthy Meals for Children – (SUPPORT)

Dear Chair Portantino:

On behalf of San Diego Hunger Coalition, I am writing in **SUPPORT** of **Senate Bill (SB) 348–Healthy Meals for Children**. SB 348 will make sure that public school pupils who are served free meals through California’s new universal meal program are served meals meet sugar standards recommended by leading child health experts and that children have adequate time to eat. Additionally, SB 348, will require the state to maximize newly available federal Summer EBT child nutrition benefits and build upon the federal program to further prevent childhood hunger during the summer.

SB 348 will improve nutrition of children by:

- Limiting the amount of sugar and salt that can be served in a school meal.
- Requiring CDE to issue guidance to ensure children have adequate time to eat a school meal.
- Improving the ability of schools to meet the universal school meal mandate on a half-day.
- Allowing for a second entre to be served to children when nutritionally appropriate.
- Maximizing the new federal summer childhood nutrition programs and requiring additional investments to boost their impact.

SB 348 will build upon California’s unprecedented investments in child nutrition by improving the meal quality of food prepared at our public schools and reducing the chance of summer hunger. It is for these reasons, San Diego Hunger Coalition is pleased to **SUPPORT** SB 348.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anahid Brakke".

Anahid Brakke
President & CEO

