



March 30, 2018

Honorable Benjamin Allen
Chair, Senate Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 2083
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1275 (Stern) Public postsecondary education: Plan Against College Hunger Act of 2018
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Chair Allen,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, supports SB 1275 (Stern), which would enact the Plan Against College Hunger Act of 2018 for purposes of reimbursing public postsecondary educational institutions, as defined, that provide student meal plans at no cost to students attending more than part time and who are Cal Grant recipients.

New research shows the high prevalence of food insecurity and hunger on California's College campuses. According to California State University (CSU), one in five CSU students experience hunger and one in ten experience homelessness. The University of California Regents found in a recent survey that one in five University of California (UC) students do not have access to adequate food or nutrition. Furthermore, nationwide, reports from the Hope Lab, which conducts research aimed at improving equitable outcomes in postsecondary education, show that half of all community college students are struggling with housing and/or food insecurity.

SB 1275 (Stern) would reduce food insecurity by providing student meal plans at no cost to those who are Cal Grant recipients and are attending public postsecondary institutions more than part time.

Pediatrician members of AAP California Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 across the state urge you to vote AYE on SB 1275 (Stern). Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: Senate Education Committee Members
Office of Honorable Henry Stern, California State Senator (Author)
AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne