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May 25, 2018

The Honorable Tom Torlakson  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
1430 N Street, Suite 5602  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

RE: AB 3043 (Berman): Pupil Nutrition: Breakfast and Lunch Programs (Support)

Dear Superintendent Torlakson:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Semiannual Business Meeting on May 9, 2018 to recommend a Support position on AB 3043 (Berman). AB 3043 would authorize school districts, schools or residential child care institutions that participate in the federal School Breakfast Program to request approval from the State Department of Education to provide a “universal breakfast.” This bill would also define a “universal breakfast” as a nutritionally adequate breakfast that complies with, and qualifies for reimbursement under, the federal School Breakfast Program and is provided to every pupil at no charge.”

AB 3043 also includes a number of other changes to school nutrition programs that would increase student access to school breakfasts and lunches, and thereby improve nutrition and health outcomes for school children. These proposed changes include:

- Allowing the governing board of a school district to authorize expenditures from the cafeteria fund or cafeteria account to provide universal breakfast;
- Allowing the use of cafeteria funds for mobile food facilities, such as food trucks, potentially creating additional venues for students to access healthy meals; and
- Increasing the maximum grant amount awarded from \$15,000 to \$30,000 for school sites to use for nonrecurring expenses associated with school breakfast and summer meal programs.

Overall, these proposed changes would facilitate a site’s ability to supplement the cost of providing universal breakfasts, with the expectation that participation would increase. Furthermore, research indicates that universal breakfast helps remove the stigma of eating school breakfast, eliminates some of the administrative burden of collecting fees from students and parents, and provides students with healthier breakfasts, which can lead to better academic performance. AB 3043 would improve nutrition and health outcomes for schoolchildren at participating sites.

Superintendent Tom Torlakson

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CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now California Department of Public Health), other departments, boards, commissions, and officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature and other organizations on all matters affecting health. CCLHO membership consists of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions.

Should you have any questions, please contact me by phone at 530-265-7154 or by email at [ken.cutler@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:ken.cutler@co.nevada.ca.us).

Sincerely and on behalf of the CCLHO membership,

*Original signed by Dr. Ken Cutler*

Ken Cutler, MD, MPH

President, California Conference of Local Health Officers

cc: Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Public Health Officer, California Department of Public Health