



March 24, 2019

The Honorable Connie M. Leyva
Chair, Senate Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 2083
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 499 (McGuire) – California Grown for Healthy Kids Act

Dear Chairperson Leyva,

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) is a statewide organization that represents both farmers and non-farm allies who support sustainable food and farming policies and the long-term viability of California agriculture. CAFF requests your support of SB 499 (McGuire), legislation that will create and sustain equitable, healthy, hunger-free schools through an extra 10¢ per breakfast reimbursement for school districts to purchase California-grown fresh fruits and vegetables. To earn this incentive, school districts must, at a minimum, serve breakfast universally free in all schools, and serve breakfast and lunch universally free at very high poverty schools.

CAFF was one of the founders of Farm to School in California and we have worked diligently for almost 20 years on helping schools to source fruits and vegetables from local farms. SB 499 will provide schools with additional funds for this purpose, which will benefit both the students and the farmers. Students can't learn when they are hungry or are given poor quality food. Many poorer students rely on school meals for a large share of the nutrition they receive. We live in the state with the greatest bounty of fresh produce and we should make sure that it is available for all students.

For these reasons, CAFF strongly supports the *California-Grown Healthy Kids Act* and we request your aye vote on SB 499.

Sincerely,

David Runsten
Policy Director

cc: Senator McGuire (author) via Kimberly Kollwitz