

Please send a support letter – **On your letter head**
Sample Support Letter – Assembly Bill 1952 (Mayes)

Send Email To: Irene.Frausto@asm.ca.gov or By Fax To: (916) 319-2189

Send Copy To: Leigh.Kammerich@asm.ca.gov, Kevin.Aslanian@ccwro, jbartholow@wclp.org

Date ____ **Please Submit by**

Honorable Blanca Rubio
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
State Capitol, Room 5175
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support AB 1952 (Mayes) – Envision Hunger Free California Act

Dear Chairperson Rubio:

[Name of Your Organization] supports Assembly Bill 1952 (Mayes), which will establish a workgroup responsible for drafting broad-based plan for a hunger free California. Specifically, it creates a process to bring together food system stakeholders to engage and collaborate at the local, regional and state levels to remove barriers to adequate, nutritious food choices and ensure that a vibrant and sustainable food system is available across all communities statewide.

Food insecurity is primarily a symptom of poverty. Research tells us that even one experience of hunger as a child can impact the health and mental well-being of a person into their adult years. Hunger, food insecurity and lack of nourishing food choices contribute to our state's high childhood obesity rate and increasing the likelihood of diabetes and prediabetes, affecting nearly 15 million Californians and costing an estimated \$37.1 billion. Access to adequate nutritious food would benefit the health and welfare of all Californians at every income level.

AB 1952 directs the State Department of Social Services (CDSS), the State Department of Public Health (CDPH), the State Department of Education (CDE), and the State Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), with the consultation of a robust stakeholder group, to jointly develop a plan to for a hunger-free California and distribute this plan to the Legislature by January 1, 2020. At a minimum, this plan would:

- Identify food deserts and provide maps of these areas to be available online;
- Identify barriers for retailers to locate in food deserts or other locations;
- Identify infrastructure needs, conduct an inventory of state-owned property suitable for food hub locations, including state fairgrounds;
- Subject to a budgetary appropriation, provide grants to enhance rural economies through rural-urban connections strategies;
- Encourage the use of electronic benefit transfer (EBT) at farmers markets, retailers in a food desert, or retailers that could ship to a food desert, for the purchase of fruits and vegetables.
- Contemplate a comprehensive statewide child hunger amelioration plan, including a universal school feeding program and a summer lunch EBT program serving children in food deserts. The plan must measure outcomes such as increased time spent in school through enrollment, attendance, and reduced drop-out rates, as well as an increase in cognition and improved learning and better health outcomes and fewer days of school missed due to illness;
- Report to the Assembly Select Committee on Campus Climate progress made by UC, CSU and Community Colleges to develop systems that allow EBT cards to be used on campus.

AB 1952 will create a space and time for officials whose administrative policy making impacts various parts of the food system to hear from stakeholders within the system, reimagine the way things work and to launch into action with a plan that will improve the distribution of fresh produce and help low-income consumer's access food, so that one day, we will be a hunger-free California. For these reasons, **[Name of Your Organization]** supports AB 1952 and respectfully requests your "Aye" vote.

Sincerely,

Your Name and Title

CC: Leigh Kammerich, Office of Honorable Chad Mayes, California State Assembly (Author)
Kevin Aslanian, Coalition of California Welfare Rights Advocates (Co-Sponsor)
Jessica Bartholow, Western Center on Law and Poverty (Co-Sponsor)