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April 13, 2021

The Honorable Melissa Hurtado  
Chair, Senate Committee on Education  
State Capitol, Room 2083  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 364 (Skinner) – Support**

Dear Senator Hurtado,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write in support of SB 364 which will help reduce child hunger and create a healthier food environment in schools.

About 30% of California households with children are food-insecure, and Latinx and Black families face even higher rates of food insecurity. Children who grow up without good nutrition face significant health, social, and economic consequences.


Federal school lunch programs are lifelines for children and their families. Unfortunately, too many families are left out of these programs because their income is above the federal poverty line or their families are afraid to apply for the programs.

SB 364 will require meals be provided to all public school children free of charge and will create a program to provide food benefits if a campus is closed. This bill will also improve the quality of food served in schools and support the purchase of California food prepared by workers in our state. And, SB 364 will strengthen existing law to ensure that a child's privacy is protected in federal applications for school meals.

CWLC's mission is to create a more just and equitable society by breaking down barriers and advancing the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. SB 364 will address child hunger, thereby assisting a child's ability to learn.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports SB 364.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler  
Executive Director