



Catholic Charities

MARIN ♦ SAN FRANCISCO ♦ SAN MATEO

T 415 972 1200
F 415 972 1201
CatholicCharitiesSF.org

990 Eddy Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

The Honorable Senator Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

August 7, 2025

Re: Support for SB411 and SB341 to fight hunger amongst California's families and children

Dear Senator Caballero,

On behalf of Catholic Charities San Francisco, I am writing to express my strong support for California Senate Bill 341 and Senate Bill 411. These pieces of legislation will have a significant impact on the health and nutritional needs of California's families and children, including many of the 70,000 individuals, families, children, and youth served by Catholic Charities annually in San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo Counties.

- SB 411, also known as the Stop Child Hunger Act of 2025, expands access to school meals over the summer months by creating an accessible and secure year-round child nutrition safety net program. Schools play a vital role in addressing food insecurity and poor health outcomes when free meals are offered to students.¹ The expansion of this program would provide year-round nutritional support to youth who are most at risk of hunger and food insecurity, particularly during school breaks.
- SB 341 would provide grants and technical assistance to schools to create school gardens. While school gardens promote healthy eating habits and instruct students on growing similar items, data have shown that the presence of these gardens contributes to increased academic benefits in areas outside of gardening, such as math, science, and other courses.²

Collectively, these bills represent a significant step forward in supporting the needs of the most vulnerable Californians, creating more affordable and accessible housing, improving public awareness and compliance, increasing financial assistance, and expanding healthcare access. The positive impact on our communities cannot be overstated, as impacted residents will have greater opportunities to live independently, access essential services, and participate fully in community life. And our state will become more inclusive, equitable, and just.

Kind regards,

Ellen Hammerle, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Charities San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo Counties
ehammerle@CatholicCharitiesSF.org

Patrick Woody
Chair, Public Interest Board Committee
Catholic Charities

¹ <https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/True-Cost-of-Food-School-Meals-Case-Study-Full-Report-Final.pdf>

² https://wpcdn.web.wsu.edu/extension/uploads/sites/43/2018/04/The-Impact-of-School-Gardens-on-K-12-Students_SECURED.pdf

cc: The Honorable Sasha Renée Pérez, Author, California State Senate
The Honorable Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh, Principal Co-Author, California State Senate
The Honorable Susan Rubio, Co-Author, California State Senate
The Honorable Monique Limon, Co-Author, California State Senate
The Honorable Henry Stern, Co-Author, California State Senate
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:
The Honorable Kelly Seyarto, Vice Chair
The Honorable Christopher Cabaldon
The Honorable Megan Dahle
The Honorable Tim Grayson
The Honorable Laura Richardson
The Honorable Aisha Wahab

