

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



Board of Supervisors

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April 9, 2018

The Honorable Chad Mayes
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4098
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: AB 1952 (Mayes): Envision a Hunger Free California Act of 2018 – As Amended April 2, 2018
Set for Hearing in Assembly Human Services Committee on April 10, 2018
Per Legislative Platform: SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Mayes:

On behalf of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, thank you for authoring Assembly Bill 1952, which would create the Envision a Hunger Free California Act of 2018.

AB 1952 establishes 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 increases the likelihood of diabetes and prediabetes, affecting nearly 15 million Californians and costing an estimated \$37.1 billion. Access to adequate nutritious food benefits the health and welfare of all Californians at every income level.

Hunger affects California's seniors, as well. Food insecure seniors are at increased risk for chronic health conditions, even when controlling for other factors such as income¹:

- 60% more likely to experience depression
- 53% more likely to report a heart attack
- 52% more likely to aggravate asthma symptoms
- 40% more likely to report an experience of congestive heart failure

AB 1952 will provide the forum 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 an action 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.

¹ Food Insecurity and Hunger in the United States: An Assessment of the Measure (2006), Committee on National Statistics, Division of behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, National Academic Press, Washington D.C.
www.nap.ed

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For these reasons, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors supports AB 1952. If you have any questions about the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact our Deputy County Executive Officer, Brian Nestande, at (951) 955-1110, bnestande@rivco.org.

Sincerely,



Chuck Washington
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Blanca Rubio, Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
Members and Consultants, Assembly Human Services Committee
Riverside County Delegation