



May 5, 2015

The Honorable Rob Bonta
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1357 (Bloom) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Bonta and Members of the Committee:

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) wishes to register its support for AB 1357 (Bloom), which proposes a multi-faceted approach to help reduce the incidence of diseases related to excessive consumption of sugar in the diet. CAFF is a statewide organization of farmers and non-farm Californians who support policies that promote both the long-term sustainability of California agriculture and a more healthful and nutritious food system. The innovative approach taken in AB 1357 does both in a meaningful way, and for that reason we strongly support the bill.

The range of diseases that result from excessive sugar consumption – including diabetes, obesity, heart disease, and pancreatic cancer – are incredibly costly to individuals, families and society, including to our health care system. One of the most basic ways to combat these diseases is by improvements to diet, through better public education and access to nutritious foods. AB 1357 recognizes this fact by including support for farm to school programs, which expose children to fresh fruits and vegetables, both in school gardens and in their lunchrooms, at a time when they are otherwise bombarded with commercial messages from the soft drink industry. It also supports greater direct access for consumers to locally grown fresh produce, through farmers markets, community supported agriculture and other outlets that support local farmers as well as consumers.

These programs, combined with greater support for public health education, outreach and treatment programs, can make California a model for comprehensive and effective policies to reduce obesity and other sugar-related diseases. We urge your YES vote on AB 1357.

Sincerely,

David Runsten
Policy Director

cc: Assemblyman Bloom