



April 2, 2026

The Honorable Buffy Wicks, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Room 1100
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 1731 (Wilson) Office of Farm to Fork: California Healthy Food Procurement Fund Program.

Dear Chair Wicks and Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee,

The California Catholic Conference is pleased to express its support for **AB 1731**, which establishes the California Healthy Food Procurement Fund Program to expand access to nutritious, locally sourced food for students across the state.

The bishops of California affirm the importance of ensuring that all students, particularly those in underserved communities, have access to healthy, nourishing food that supports their growth, learning, and overall well-being. Schools play a vital role in this effort, and strengthening the quality and sustainability of school food systems is an important investment in both student success and long-term public health.

AB 1731 advances a thoughtful and equitable approach by promoting the procurement of fresh, minimally processed, and locally sourced foods for K–12 schools. By supporting partnerships with local farmers and vendors that use environmentally responsible practices, this bill not only improves student nutrition but also strengthens local economies and promotes environmental stewardship.

This approach aligns with Catholic social teaching, which calls us to care for creation, support workers' dignity, and promote the common good. Ensuring that children have access to healthy meals, while also supporting sustainable agricultural practices, reflects a holistic commitment to the well-being of both people and the planet.

By prioritizing equity, student health, and climate-conscious practices, AB 1731 represents an important step toward building a more just and sustainable food system for California's students.

For these reasons, as the official public policy voice of the Catholic Church in California, we urge you to vote "AYE" on AB 1731. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact Samara Palko, Director of Education, at 916-477-0631 or spalko@cacatholic.org.

Sincerely yours,

Kathleen Domingo
Executive Director

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