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DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

May 25, 2021

RE: DPSFV Supports Assembly Bill 996 (School Breakfast)

Representatives of the Honorable San Fernando Valley Delegation:

On behalf of the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley (DPSFV), we are pleased to report that our Executive Board voted to support AB 996, which mandates the California Department of Education to develop protocols for CA school districts to serve younger siblings a school-breakfast. We urge you to support AB 996.

DPSFV was founded in 1978 and is chartered by the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee. Our organization is the coordinating body for a coalition of twenty-one Democratic Clubs located in the six Assembly Districts (38, 39, 43, 45, 46, and 50) which are wholly or partially in the San Fernando Valley.

The DPSFV Executive Board met this month and voted to support this vital piece of legislation. Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, public school districts like LAUSD have provided critical food security for low-income residents and families impacted financially by the pandemic, including providing free meals to the younger siblings of school-aged children. By providing DoE guidance on how to co-locate Breakfast for Toddlers programs with pre-existing Child & Adult Care Food Programs, California schools will be better equipped to meet the food security needs of their communities.

Hunger among children is known to have significant impacts on educational outcomes, and children experiencing hunger are less likely to focus, more likely to face disciplinary action, and less likely to engage in extra-curricular activities. Additionally, childhood hunger increases the likelihood of developmental delays, cognitive deficiencies, and adult auto-immune diseases that are both costly and painful.

AB 996 will address the hunger needs of children who are not yet school-age by ensuring access to the most important meal of the day.

We urge you to support AB 996.

Please note that DPSFV will be tracking this bill as it travels through the Legislature. Your voting record will be noted and may be considered should you ever seek our endorsement. Your office is always welcome to contact DPSFV if you have any questions.

Sincerely and respectfully,



Chair Sean M. Rivas
Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley

cc: Assembly Members Rivas, Friedman, Gabriel, Nazarian (author), and Bloom
Senators Hertzberg, Portantino, Stern and Allen

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