

Submitter:

V Williams

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB1581

When I was a student access to free school breakfast and lunch made a real difference in my life and in my family's ability to get by. My parents were working paycheck to paycheck. Knowing that I would receive two reliable & nutritious meals at school helped them stretch limited resources and reduce daily stress. Those meals meant I could focus in class instead of worrying about being hungry. Without that support I truly believe I would have struggled academically, and I may not have had the opportunity to succeed in school and go on to become the nurse I am today.

Now, as a nurse, I see every day how deeply nutrition is tied to health, learning, and long-term outcomes. A full belly is often the first step toward good physical and mental health. I believe everyone in our communities deserves access to nutritious food without shame or barriers. Schools are one of the most effective places to ensure that happens. Requiring school districts to offer breakfast and lunch at no charge is not just an education policy. It is a public health investment that supports families, strengthens communities, and gives every child a fair chance to thrive.