

## **Support for School Meals for All (SB 1581)**

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

As the youngest of six in a big family, free lunches at school made a real difference in my life. My parents worked hard, but feeding that many kids wasn't easy, and knowing I could eat for free at school took pressure off my family. Having a guaranteed meal each day helped me focus in class instead of worrying about being hungry or my parents worrying about what and how to feed me. It also made me feel equal to other students, since everyone ate the same lunch and no one felt singled out. Free school lunches supported my parents by lowering grocery costs and helping them provide for all of us. Because of programs like this, kids from large families like mine get a fair chance to learn, grow, and succeed.

Thank you,

Saul G.