



**COUNTY OF  
SAN BERNARDINO**  
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICE**

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GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX  
Chief Executive Officer

July 22, 2011

The Honorable John Perez  
Speaker of the of the Assembly  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 581 (Perez) –As Amended 7/11/2011 - SUPPORT**

Dear Speaker Perez,

San Bernardino County strongly supports AB 581. The establishment of the California Healthy Food Financing Initiative (CHFFI) will help access federal funds to develop the framework necessary to increase the sale and purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables to underserved urban and rural communities.

Programs and services developed through the pilot program will have long-lasting impact to improving the quality of life for our residents. Seventeen percent of the population lives below the poverty level and have limited access to affordable, quality, and nutritious foods.

In addition, San Bernardino County is the birthplace of two of the world’s largest fast food franchises. This paved the way for stronger ties to unhealthy fast food retail establishment for the next 70 years. The Retail Food Environment Index- ratio of unhealthy to health ratio – is the highest in California at 5.7 compared to 4.2 statewide.

These barriers are a direct link to the epidemic occurring in our County. Sixty four percent of County adults are overweight or obese, compared to fifty six percent of California adults. Thirty two percent of school-aged children in the County are considered overweight or obese.

We encourage and support the California Department of Public Health, Department of Food and Agriculture, and other state agencies’ efforts to maximize the impact of the CHFFI and leverage funding from federal and other sources to improve the health of low-income communities by increasing access to more readily available fresh, nutritious foods.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports AB 581. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, at (909) 387-4280. The County thanks you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

**JOSIE GONZALES**  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

*The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.*