

# Dr. LaShae Sharp- Collins

## 79<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



### AB 802: Youth Hunger in Juvenile Facilities

#### **SUMMARY**

AB 802 requires County Juvenile Justice Commissions, which are required under state law to inquire into the administration of the juvenile justice system in their jurisdiction, to conduct a survey not less than every 24 months to ascertain whether the nutritional needs of youth are being met.

Reports based on the surveys would be published on the juvenile justice commissions' websites, and county probation departments would publish their policies to remediate problems identified by the survey on their websites.

#### **BACKGROUND**

California's juvenile detention facilities have long faced scrutiny over the quality and quantity of food provided to incarcerated youth. Recent reports have highlighted concerns about inadequate nutrition and persistent hunger among detained youth, particularly affecting their physical and mental well-being. In Los Angeles, disputes between youth and probation staff over access to adequate food has led to violent altercations that jeopardize the health and safety of both the youth and staff. Existing law states that youth in detention have the right to receive adequate food and snacks. This bill will help ensure that local facilities are complying with this basic human right.

Research supports this humane approach to juvenile justice. For decades, there has been a biomedical consensus that diet and nutritional

changes have the power to improve behavior in young people, both in community and in correctional settings. In order to promote public safety, it is urgent that California correctional settings for youth include a means of assessing their success, or failure, in meeting the nutritional needs of young people and preventing hunger.

#### **THIS BILL**

AB 802 requires a biennial survey of youth in juvenile halls, camps or other facilities to ensure they are receiving proper nutrition for the duration of their time in custody.

#### **SUPPORT**

Center on Juvenile & Criminal Justice (sponsor)  
Fresh Lifelines for Youth (sponsor)  
Prosecutors Alliance Action (sponsor)

#### **CONTACT**

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