



California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

Support AB 346 (Torlakson): Joint-Use of School Grounds *Create more safe places for physical activity*

One of the biggest challenges to reducing obesity and diabetes in low-income communities of color is making sure that we have safe, accessible places for our families to walk, run, and play. One way we can do this is by creating new – or opening up existing – school facilities for us to use. This joint-use of playgrounds and other school facilities by students during school hours, and by community members during non-school hours, gives us an opportunity to improve our health through regular physical activity.

There is currently a state program to finance the creation of new joint-use facilities from school bonds, but there are stringent requirements that make it difficult for communities with fewer resources to access the funding.

AB 346 (Torlakson) reduces barriers to creating new joint-use facilities.

AB 346, sponsored by California's Coalition for Adequate School Housing (CASH), will:

- make it easier for communities to forge partnerships to create new joint-use facilities,
- give more flexibility to communities to raise the local share of funds needed to draw down state funding, and
- allow joint-use funds to go toward creating *outdoor* facilities, which will help ensure the new projects can be used for physical activity.

With more than 30% of Latino, Native American, and Pacific Islander children overweight, physical activity is an essential component to reducing the epidemics of obesity and diabetes in communities of color. AB 346 moves us in that direction.

Help achieve health equity by supporting AB 346!

Find a sample letter of support for AB 346 at www.cpehn.org.

Join us at the State Capitol on ENACT: Nutrition & Activity Day on **April 29** in support of this and other (obesity prevention bill) nutrition and physical activity bills. Register at www.cfpa.net/ENACT2009/index.htm.

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