



Statewide Youth Board on Obesity Prevention 2007 Highlights

Members of the Statewide Youth Board on Obesity Prevention (SYBOP) came together with members of the Policy Leadership Program (PLP) on School Health during April 1-3, 2007 in Sacramento to finalize their policy platforms and select their legislative agendas. The teens made presentations on issues related to childhood obesity, nutrition and physical health, overall school health and access to care. Both programs spent two days preparing for their briefings by gathering information about health related policies and bills, meeting with experts in the fields, and meeting with legislative staff. Highlights are as follows:

- **Presentation of Signatures to Governor's Office** – PLP students had spent several weeks gathering over 8,000 signatures of support for establishing school based health centers on junior high and high school campuses. PLP and SYBOP students presented backpacks filled with thousands of signatures to Richard Figueroa, Health Care Advisor to Governor Schwarzenegger at a press event on Tuesday, April 3rd. The event made it to the channel 13 6:00 pm news!
- **2007 Adolescent Health Policy Briefing** – Secretary of Health and Human Services Agency Kimberly Belshe served as the keynote speaker for the students' policy briefing for the second year in a row!
- **SYBOP Policy Platform** – SYBOP students selected a policy platform which advocates for access to healthy food, nutrition education, physical well being of Californians, and improving school meals. They are supporting the following pieces of legislation:
 1. **SB 20 – Torlakson - Sustaining and Improving School Meals.** This bill would increase the state reimbursement fee for free and reduced priced meals to enable school districts to purchase healthier items.
 2. **AB 90 – Huffman and Lieu – Pupil Nutrition: Artificial Trans Fat.** This bill bans trans fat in K-12 school environments.
 3. **SB 107 – Alquist – Healthy Food Choices.** This bill would provide better access to healthy food for low income communities.
 4. **SB 120 - Padilla – Food facilities: nutritional information.** This bill would require chain restaurants to label their menus with nutritional information.
- **Legislative and Executive Branch Visits.** SYBOP students also had a chance to meet with high level decisionmakers, including the following:
 - ⇒ SYBOP members met with the Department of Health Services, including representatives of California Nutrition Network, WIC, Project LEAN, and others.
 - ⇒ PLP and SYBOP students met with their own legislative representatives.
 - ⇒ SYBOP presented their policy platform to Ana Matosantos, Deputy Legislative Secretary to Governor Schwarzenegger.
- **Statewide Mini Grant.** SYBOP students put out a request for grant applications, evaluated proposals, and selected this year's mini-grant awardees.
 1. **Food Share, Ventura County, CA, \$500** – Funds will support Ventura County's Food Bank's Children's Nutrition Education Program.
 2. **Olympic High School, Santa Monica, CA, \$500** – Funds will support this continuation school's science class and school garden.

SYBOP is supported by funding from The California Endowment, Kaiser Permanente, California Nutrition Network, Sutter Health and Sempra Energy. For more information on the SYBOP, please contact Becca Louisell at (916) 443-2229 x. 24 or blouisell@californiacenter.org.