



3/16/2021

ATTN: The Honorable Carlos Villapudua Member
California State Assembly State Capitol
Room 4162 Sacramento, CA 95814
RE: AB219 School Supply Sales Tax Holiday Credit

The Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce has been representing business and building community since 1958. We represent over 550 businesses, 12,000 social media followers and 46,000 community members. Being an advocate of the business and workforce communities, our organization supports actions that satisfy the following measures: SMART Growth, Economic Sustainability, Quality Jobs and Tax Revenue, while keeping the character of our community intact.

On behalf of the Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce, small businesses and residents, I write to express our support for AB219. According to the Huntington Backpack Index, in 2019 the estimated out of pocket school expenses per student was between \$1,000-\$1,600 depending upon school age. Parents and educators are largely responsible for covering these additional costs. Low-income families struggle to purchase these extra supplies during standard years and with added stressors such as the COVID19 pandemic, that ability becomes obsolete. Further, the last year of Distance Learning has shifted parents into home-based educators, further increasing the need and volume of out-of-pocket school supply purchases.

As students return to in-person learning, both parents and educators will need to purchase supplies for individual students and the classroom as a whole. The financial impact of COVID19 will be felt for years to come. A Sales Tax Holiday Credit for the purchase of qualified school supplies will encourage parents and educators to purchase the supplies students need to be successful, while also bridging the financial gap. Every student deserves an equal opportunity for education, which includes access to the tools needed to be successful.

Sincerely,

Brittney Sherman

Brittney Sherman
CEO/President

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