

February 10, 2021



The Honorable Carlos Villapudua  
Member, California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4162  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**AB 219: Sales Tax Holiday – School Supplies – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Villapudua:

On behalf of the California Retailers Association (CRA), I write to express our support for Assembly Bill 219. AB 219 establishes a sales tax holiday for qualified school supplies on unspecified dates in 2022.

The California Retailers Association is the only statewide trade association representing all segments of the retail industry including general merchandise, department stores, mass merchandisers, fast food restaurants, convenience stores, supermarkets and grocery stores, chain drug, and specialty retail such as auto, vision, jewelry, hardware and home stores. CRA works on behalf of California's retail industry, which, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, operated over 164,200 stores and employs around 2,776,000 people—nearly one fifth of California's total employment.

As we look forward to a time when all schools can resume in-person classes, we know that the impacts of the pandemic will be felt for some time – including financial impacts to many individuals and families. School supplies can be a significant cost for families as they prepare their children to go back to school, as well as for classroom teachers who often purchase from their own pocketbooks substantial amounts of supplies for their classes. AB 219 will help relieve some of this financial burden.

Thank you for introducing this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve McCarthy'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Steve McCarthy  
Vice President, Public Policy  
California Retailers Association