



March 17, 2010

The Honorable Elaine Alquist
Chair, Senate Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: 916.324.0384

The Honorable Carol Liu
Chair, Senate Human Services Committee
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: 916.327.9478

Regarding: Support for Assembly Bill 963 (Ammiano)

Dear Senators Alquist and Liu:

California Association of Food Banks supports AB 963 (Ammiano). AB 963 streamlines renewal for children and families enrolled in Medi-Cal, Food Stamps, and CalWORKs. As you may know, many children and adults who are eligible for Medi-Cal, Food Stamps, and CalWORKs unnecessarily lose these vital benefits because of complex renewal requirements. Furthermore, though these programs have similar eligibility and renewal application requirements and are administered by the same county departments, individuals—mostly low-income, working families—are often required to complete separate paperwork to renew coverage for each program.

AB 963 proposes a simple solution to ensuring that eligible children and families stay enrolled in Medi-Cal, Food Stamps, and CalWORKs. It establishes a stakeholder workgroup that would review current renewal processes and make recommendations for alignment of renewal protocols and forms for Medi-Cal, Food Stamps and CalWORKs. AB 963 would support the efforts of the Department of Social Services and the Department of Health Care Services to more effectively retain populations eligible for these programs through their effort to modernize enrollment into these programs.

AB 963 is a modest bill that will yield efficiencies for counties. During this budget crisis, this is the right time to make processes and procedures more efficient for children and families enrolled in Medi-Cal, Food Stamps, and CalWORKs and for counties.

Once again, CAFB strongly supports AB 963. During these challenging times, California families are needier than ever. Now is the time to make sure people don't go hungry because of program inefficiencies.

Sincerely,

Sue Sigler
Executive Director
California Association of Food Banks

cc: The Honorable Tom Ammiano [Fax: (916) 319-2113]