

AB 1894: College Student Hunger Relief Act of 2018

Assemblymember Shirley Weber (D – 79)

SUMMARY

AB 1894 would build upon previous legislation to address the growing crisis of hunger on California's college campuses.

BACKGROUND

New research has shown a high prevalence of food insecurity and hunger on California's College campuses. According to California State University (CSU), one in five CSU students experience hunger and one in ten experience homelessness. In a survey recently conducted by the University of California Regents, it was found that one in five University of California (UC) students do not have access to adequate food or nutrition. Furthermore, nationwide, the Hope Lab, which conducts research aimed at improving equitable outcomes in postsecondary education, reports show that half of all community college students are struggling with housing and/or food insecurity.

A study conducted in 2013 of Pell Grant recipients at California State University Sacramento found that 23% of these high performing students from low-income families experience at least one day each month in which they go without food and 12% reported having unintentionally lost weight because they could not afford food. These findings are consistent with findings from other university research documenting a prevalence of hunger among college students, impeding graduation rates and learning.

Assembly Bills 1747 (2016) and 214 (2017), authored by Dr. Shirley Weber and signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown, address

growing hunger among low-income college students in California. The bill provides the state with several new tools to draw down federal resources and aims to improve coordination between anti-hunger efforts on college campuses and anti-hunger efforts in the surrounding communities.

AB 1894 will build upon these efforts to allow for every CSU college to allow for students who are homeless to use their CalFresh benefits at college campus cafeterias through the Restaurant Meals Program.

THIS BILL

AB 1894 will further improve access to federal anti-hunger benefits for California's low-income college students by expanding the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program to all CSU locations regardless of whether or not their county has chosen to participate in the program for the non-student population.

SUPPORT

Western Center on Law and Poverty
(Sponsor)
Young Invincibles (Sponsor)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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