



# ASSEMBLYMEMBER JOAQUIN ARAMBULA, M.D. 31<sup>ST</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

## AB 870 – Student Resources Network

### Summary

AB 870 increases student awareness of safety net services by encouraging the sharing of best practices and successful approaches across California.

### Background

In 2019, the California Student Aid Commission conducted a survey of student needs.<sup>1</sup> Of over 15,000 students who responded across all California institutions, on average, over one third experienced either housing insecurity or food insecurity.

In response to these dire circumstances, school counselors can connect students with appropriate county-funded or county-administered services such as CalFresh and CalWORKs. Unfortunately, many counselors do not have the time or expertise to navigate county governments for this purpose.

To ensure that students in need are able to access the full range of services they are entitled to, every county human service agency must appoint at least one employee to serve as a County Liaison of Higher Education. These liaisons are tasked with connecting students at higher education institutions with county-administered social programs.

However, there is a lack of consistency across counties as to how these County Liaisons conduct their outreach. This means that some students in desperate need of food or financial assistance might continue struggling while in a neighboring county a similar student is getting the support that might make the difference between staying in school or dropping out.

While the Department of Social Services recently released an All County Information Notice on this issue,<sup>2</sup> there is a need for more regular meetings between county social service departments, institutes of higher education, students, and other stakeholders to ensure all students receive the supports they deserve.

### Current Law

AB 1326 (Arambula, Stats. 2021, Ch. 570) Requires a county human services agency to designate at least one

employee as a staff liaison to serve as a point of contact for academic counselors and other professional staff at a campus of an institution of public higher education located within the county.

### This Bill

AB 870:

- 1) Convenes quarterly meetings between County Liaisons of Higher Education and relevant stakeholders to share best practices and challenges facing students in need of support.
- 2) Establishes the goal of increasing student participation in programs they are entitled to such as CalFresh, CalWORKs, and Medi-Cal.

### Support

CA Association of Food Banks (Sponsor)  
 California Food and Farming Network  
 California Student Aid Commission  
 Central California Food Bank  
 Ceres Community Project  
 Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations  
 Community Action Partnership of Orange County  
 Feeding San Diego  
 Food For People, The Food Bank for Humboldt County  
 Food Share  
 GLIDE  
 Grace Institute – End Child Poverty in CA  
 Law Foundation of Silicon Valley  
 Polo’s Pantry  
 San Diego Food Bank  
 San Diego Hunger Coalition  
 Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County  
 Second Harvest of Silicon Valley  
 Yolo Food Bank

### For More Information

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<sup>1</sup> [Student Expenses and Resources Survey](#)

<sup>2</sup> [ACIN I-85-22](#)