



May 09, 2023

Dear California Congressional Delegation,

The undersigned members of the California Legislature are writing to request your support for anti-hunger policies in the upcoming Federal Farm Bill specific to Title 4 Nutrition.

With the enactment of the Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 and the expiration federal Public Health Emergency on May 11, 2023, two critical programs that helped mitigate hunger over the last three years are coming to an end. On March 26, CalFresh recipients received their last Emergency Allotments, which have been boosting CalFresh benefits since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the highly effective Pandemic-EBT program, which has been providing food benefits to children, will end this school year. These two anti-hunger programs are among the most significant and effective policies in our food safety-net in decades, and the expiration of them is expected to intensify widespread hardship throughout California. The 5 million CalFresh recipients will lose at least \$82 per month, with benefits dropping to a meager average of \$6 per person per day.

These policy changes emerge amid a period of high food costs and are expected to increase the rates of hunger among the 8 million Californians who are already experiencing food insecurity, while also increasing the numbers of people newly falling into food insecurity.

The Farm Bill is especially critical for California, as we are home to some of the world's most productive agricultural regions, many of which also have high levels of hunger. We applaud Governor Newsom and his administration's priorities, led by Secretary Karen Ross, and share their message that we need a unified Farm Bill in which every Title delivers for California.

Here are our Title 4 Nutrition priorities, many of which are led by members of the California delegation:

Fight the hunger cliff and improve SNAP benefit adequacy by adopting the Low-Cost Food Plan to make basic nutrition more affordable: [S. 1336](#) / [H.R. 3037](#), the Closing the Meal Gap Act. This legislation includes several other important provisions, including to: (1) Raise the minimum SNAP benefit currently at just \$23 a month; (2) Uncap Excess Shelter Deduction that reduces help for people in areas with a high cost of housing.

Increase SNAP equitable access for critical populations:

- Repeal the three-month time limit on SNAP for out of work adults: [H.R. 1510](#) (Rep. Lee CA-12 118th), Improve Access to Nutrition Act.
- Reverse a discriminatory policy by repealing the five-year prohibition on SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid for lawfully present immigrants: [H.R. 5227](#) (117th), LIFT the BAR Act.
- End the unjust rule preventing SNAP access for low-income college students: [H.R. 1919](#) (Rep. Gomez CA-34 117th), Enhanced Access to SNAP Act (EATS Act).
- End the SNAP ban for people who receive Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.
- End the SNAP ban for people with prior felony convictions: Re-Entry Support Through Opportunities for Resources & Essentials (RESTORE) Act sponsored by Senator Cory Booker and Senator Raphael Warnock.

Expand the accessibility of using SNAP to purchase hot and prepared food and meals through the Hot Foods Act sponsored by Representatives Meng, Fitzpatrick, Garbarino and Spanberger paired with robust implementation of the Restaurant Meals Program by the USDA.

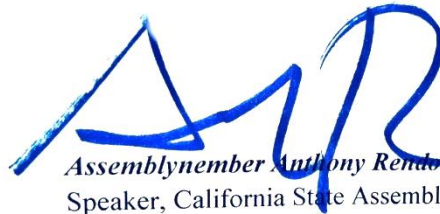
Improve the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) so that food banks have the adequate resources to serve communities in need with culturally responsive food and dignity.

Thank you, in advance for your consideration of these Farm Bill priorities.

Sincerely,



Senator Toni Atkins (D-39)
President pro tempore, California State Senate



Assemblymember Anthony Rendón (D-62)
Speaker, California State Assembly



Senator Benjamin Allen (D-24)
Chair, Environmental Quality Committee



Assemblymember Dawn Addis (D-30)
Chair, Select Committee on Serving Students with Disabilities



Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil (D-04)
Chair, Committee on Human Services



Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-04)
Chair, Committee on Local Government
Vice-Chair, Legislative Women's Caucus



Senator Bob Archuleta (D-30)
Chair, Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs



Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula (D-31)
Chair, Budget Sub-Committee on Health and Human Services



Senator Josh Becker (D-13)
Chair, Budget Subcommittee on Resources, Environmental Protection and Energy



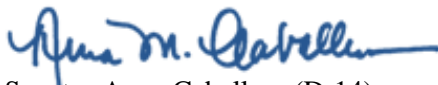
Assemblymember Dr. Jasmeet Bains (D-35)
Chair, Committee on Aging and Long-term Care



Senator Catherine Blakespear (D-38)



Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan (D-16)
Chair, Committee on Water Parks and Wildlife



Senator Anna Caballero (D-14)
Chair, Governance and Finance Committee



Assemblymember Marc Berman (D-23)
Chair, Business and Professions Committee



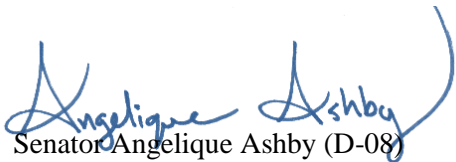
Senator Dave Cortese (D-15)
Chair, Labor Public Empl. & Retirement Committee



Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-55)
Chair, Committee on Elections



Senator Susan Calamantes Eggman (D-05)
Chair, Committee on Health
Chair, Legislative LGBTQ Caucus



Senator Angelique Ashby (D-08)
Chair, Legislative Ethics Committee



Senator Bill Dodd (D-03)
Chair, Committee on Governmental Organization



Senator Melissa Hurtado (D-16)
Chair, Committee on Agriculture



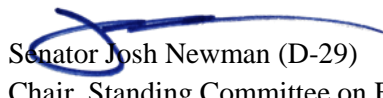
Senator John Laird (D-17)
Chair, Budget Subcommittee on Education



Senator Mike McGuire (D-02)
Senate Majority Leader



Senator Caroline Menjivar (D-30)
Chair, Budget Subcommittee on Health
and Human Services



Senator Josh Newman (D-29)
Chair, Standing Committee on Education



Senator Stephen C. Padilla (D-18)
Chair, Budget Subcommittee on State Administration
and General Government



Senator General Richard D. Roth (D-31)
Chair, Senate Committee on Business, Professions and
Economic Development



Senator Nancy Skinner (D-09)
Chair, Budget and Fiscal Committee
Chair, Legislative Women's Caucus



Senator Henry I. Stern (D-27)
Chair, Natural Resources & Water Committee



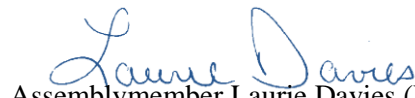
Senator Aisha Wahab (D-10)
Chair, Committee on Public Safety



Senator Scott D. Wiener (D-11)
Chair, Committee on Housing
Co-Chair, Legislative Jewish Caucus



Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo (D-52)
Chair, Budget Subcommittee on State Administration



Assemblymember Laurie Davies (R-74)
Vice-Chair Committee on Military & Veterans Affairs



Assemblymember Laura Friedman (D-44)
Chair, Committee on Transportation



Assemblymember Mike A. Gipson (D-65)
Chair, Assembly Democratic Caucus



Assemblymember Timothy S. Grayson (D-15)
Chair, Committee on Banking and Finance



Assemblymember Philip Y. Ting (D-19)
Chair, Committee on Budget



Assemblymember Corey A. Jackson, DSW (D-60)
Chair, Committee on Human Services



Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua (D-13)
Chair, Committee on Jobs, Economic Development,
and the Economy



Assemblymember Tina McKinnor (D-61)
Chair, Public Employment and Retirement



Assemblymember Christopher M. Ward (D-78)
Speaker pro Tempore California State Assembly
Vice-Chair, Legislative LGBTQ Caucus



Assemblymember Liz Ortega (D-20)



Assemblymember Dr. Akilah Weber, (D-79)
Chair, Select Committee on Social Determinants
Of Health



Assemblymember Blanca Pacheco (D-64)



Assemblymember Gail Pellerin (D-28)



Assemblymember Buffy Wicks (D-14)
Chair, Housing and Community Development



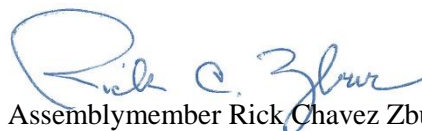
Assemblymember Luz Rivas, (D-43)
Chair, Committee on Natural Resources



Assemblymember Dr. Jim Wood (D-02)
Chair, Committee on Health



Assemblymember Robert Rivas (D-29)
Speaker Designee, California State Assembly
Chair, Committee on Agriculture



Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur (D-51)



Assemblymember Miguel Santiago (D-54)
Chair, Governmental Organization Committee