**How to Submit Position Letter for AB 2241 (Alvarez)**

**How to Submit Position Letter**

1. **Create an account with** [**California Advocates**](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)**:** The California Legislature will only accept letters received through an online portal system called California Advocates.
* Create an account [here](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/), if you do not already have one.
* Follow the prompts and fill out the necessary information to set up your account.
* Once you've set up your account please follow the steps below to begin the letter submission process.
1. **Create a letter of support:** There is a sample letter on the next page for your reference. Please place the content of the sample letter on your own organizational **letterhead**, include a **signature**, and **tailor** as desired to reflect the perspective of your organization and/or why this bill is necessary. Personal stories are important!
2. **Submit a letter of support:** Once signed into the portal:
* Select the “Submit a Letter” (top left corner).
* Enter the bill number (AB 2241) and session type (Regular). Select “Search.”
* Ensure that the proper bill has populated and select “Next.”
* On the “Submit Letter as” page, either select or enter your organization.
* Ensure that the Assembly Appropriations Committee is selected. This will ensure that the appropriate legislative staffer will receive a copy of your letter. Select “Next.”
* Upload your letter, select “Support” under “Stance,” and enter a subject line.
* You will be prompted to a final “Review Your Submission” page where you can make sure the information you entered is accurate.
* Once you've done so, select “Submit.”

**You're done!**

PLEASE SUBMIT ON YOUR LETTERHEAD THROUGH THE PORTAL



 SEND A COPY CONFIRMING YOUR SUBMISSION TO: Cynthia.Yepez@asm.ca.gov; csanchez@wclp.org and kevin.aslanian@ccwro.org

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Honorable Buffy Wicks

Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee

1020 O Street, Suite 8220

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 2241 (Alvarez) - No Wrong Door for Reporting Changes or Providing**

**Requested Verification to County Welfare Offices-SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Wicks:

I write to you on behalf of [name of your organization) to express our support for AB 2241(Alvarez) that would allow applicants and recipients of public benefits to report changes and provide verification requested by the county welfare office that is required by law.

Existing law provides for various public social services programs administered by the State Department of Social Services, State Department of Health Care Services, and counties, including, among others, the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, under which each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families and individuals, CalFresh, under which supplemental nutrition assistance benefits allocated to the state by the federal government are distributed to eligible individuals by each county, and the Medi-Cal program, under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care service. Existing law imposes various reporting and verification requirements on applicants and recipients of these public social services programs relating to identity, income, and assets, among other things.

AB 2241 would, to the extent permitted under federal law, require state and county agencies to accept the reporting by an applicant or recipient of public social services of any lawfully required information, changes, and verification required by law that affect eligibility and benefit amounts, by any means available to the applicant or recipient, including, but not limited to, in person, by telephone, through facsimile, by email, or by any other electronic means.

A number of counties refuse to accept reports of changes of income or other circumstances of public benefit beneficiaries and requested verification through email. This ends up beneficiaries being accused to failure to report changes that often lead to referral for welfare fraud and overpayments.

Counties also deny applications for failure to provide verification, also known as “procedural reasons”.

The two tables below show the percentage of applications denied due to procedural reasons, many of which are failure to provide requested verification.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CalFresh Applications Denied due to Applicants Failure to Meet Procedural Requirements** |   | **CalWORKs Applications Denied due to Applicants Failure to Meet Procedural Requirements** |
| **Month/ Year** | **Denials** | **Procedural Denials** | **%** |   | **Month/Year** | **Denials** | **Procedural Denials** | **%** |
| 21-Jul | 89455 | 66152 | 74% |   | 21-Jul | 13181 | 7215 | 55% |
| 21-Aug | 98677 | 68798 | 70% |   | 21-Aug | 13950 | 7492 | 54% |
| 21-Sep | 93541 | 68239 | 73% |   | 21-Sep | 13516 | 7411 | 55% |
| 21-Oct | 82514 | 68347 | 83% |   | 21-Oct | 12506 | 6914 | 55% |
| 21-Nov | 107161 | 80728 | 75% |   | 21-Nov | 13459 | 7609 | 57% |
| 21-Dec | 97482 | 72450 | 74% |   | 21-Dec | 13616 | 8059 | 59% |
| 22-Jan | 80218 | 57622 | 72% |   | 22-Jan | 11831 | 6907 | 58% |
| 22-Feb | 86068 | 62347 | 72% |   | 22-Feb | 12091 | 6775 | 56% |
| 22-Mar | 93146 | 64157 | 69% |   | 22-Mar | 12911 | 7183 | 56% |
| 22-Apr | 86766 | 58930 | 68% |   | 22-Apr | 12131 | 6356 | 52% |
| 22-May | 82730 | 54067 | 65% |   | 22-May | 12339 | 6538 | 53% |
| 22-Jun | 89243 | 58889 | 66% |   | 22-Jun | 12847 | 6695 | 52% |
| 22-Jul | 91722 | 60641 | 66% |   | 22-Jul | 12119 | 6343 | 52% |
| 22-Aug | 107909 | 70751 | 66% |   | 22-Aug | 14118 | 7298 | 52% |
| 22-Sep | 105755 | 70355 | 67% |   | 22-Sep | 17308 | 9190 | 53% |
| 22-Oct | 105072 | 69880 | 67% |   | 22-Oct | 18764 | 9943 | 53% |
| 22-Nov | 103675 | 70697 | 68% |   | 22-Nov | 19332 | 10569 | 55% |
| 22-Dec | 94042 | 63760 | 68% |   | 22-Dec | 19036 | 10308 | 54% |
| 23-Jan | 90922 | 60901 | 67% |   | 23-Jan | 18919 | 10023 | 53% |
| 23-Feb | 92766 | 63800 | 69% |   | 23-Feb | 17881 | 9696 | 54% |
| 23-Mar | 103754 | 71907 | 69% |   | 23-Mar | 20117 | 10842 | 54% |
| 23-Apr | 85780 | 58292 | 68% |   | 23-Apr | 17893 | 9557 | 53% |
| 23-May | 92340 | 61983 | 67% |   | 23-May | 19185 | 10267 | 54% |
| 23-Jun | 93544 | 62099 | 66% |   | 23-Jun | 20351 | 10873 | 53% |
| 23-Jul | 80340 | 52935 | 66% |   | 23-Jul | 21814 | 11904 | 55% |
| 23-Aug | 94036 | 58441 | 62% |   | 23-Aug | 26853 | 14655 | 55% |
| 23-Sep | 82920 | 54031 | 65% |   | 23-Sep | 23723 | 13393 | 56% |
|  |  |  |  |   | 23-Oct | 25186 | 14021 | 56% |
|  |  |  |  |   | 23-Nov | 22061 | 12510 | 57% |

For these reasons, [Organization] supports AB 2241 (Alvarez).

Sincerely,

Your Name and Title