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*Assembly
California Legislature*

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March 13, 2007

TO: Members of the Legislature
FROM: Assemblymember Jim Beall, Jr.
RE: AB 433, Connecting Health and Nutrition Programs

I am writing to request that you be a co-author of AB 433, legislation to improve the health and nutritional status of low-income Californians.

AB 433 complements our health care reform efforts by securing additional federal resources to improve nutrition for low-income Californians. California turns away over \$2 billion a year in federal nutrition resources. AB 433 seeks to bring in more of these federal funds by reducing administrative barriers to increase participation in programs that support good nutrition.

Adopting a federal option at work in 39 other states, AB 433 establishes “categorical eligibility” for some families receiving Medi-Cal. This allows these families to skip unnecessary steps in eligibility process and more easily obtain the nutrition benefits provided by the Food Stamp Program. Thanks to legislation passed in 2005, children in these families could then be more easily enrolled in free meal programs at school.

AB 433 also takes action to reposition the Food Stamp Program as a health and nutrition program. The Food Stamp Program has changed. The “stamps” are gone. They have been replaced by an electronic card. The demographics of participants have also changed. Not long ago, the majority of participants in food stamps also received cash welfare assistance. But now, the majority are more likely to be among the working poor. AB 433 establishes a process for renaming the Food Stamp Program in California to better reflect its value as a health and nutrition support for the working poor. This will help reduce the stigma to the over 2 million Californians eligible for, but not receiving, these federally-funded nutrition benefits.

Please join me in co-authoring this very important bill. AB 433 is sponsored by the California Food Policy Advocates. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Casey McKeever, Chief Consultant of the Assembly Human Service Committee, at 319-2089.

Yes, I want to be a co-author of AB 433.

Member Name

Member Signature

Please return to: Casey McKeever
State Capitol – Room 4206 or fax to: (916) 319-2189