

March 10, 2017

The Honorable Mark Stone
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
Fax: (916) 319-2129



1970 Broadway, Suite 760
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 433-1122
www.cfpa.net

Re: AB-160 CalWORKs Eligibility - Support

Dear Assemblymember Stone:

On behalf of California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA), I am writing to express our support for AB 160, which would improve the work support benefits of the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids program (CalWORKs).

CFPA is a statewide public policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. Throughout our more than 20 years of experience, we have worked to achieve a healthy and food secure California. Restoring the CalWORKs lifetime limit to its pre-recession level and increasing the Earned Income Disregard (EID) would help prevent against hunger by providing much needed support to over 508,000 families who work hard to support California's economy yet still struggle to provide for themselves and their children.

The primary goal of the CalWORKs program is to move families out of poverty and towards economic self sufficiency. At present, families on CalWORKs find their progress restricted by the 48-month time limit. AB 160 would adjust the time limit to 60 months, enabling more working, yet struggling, families to achieve self-sufficiency over time without suddenly losing needed assistance. AB 160 would also increase the EID to reflect increases in the minimum wage and cost of living. Increasing the EID supports CalWORKs recipients as they work towards self sufficiency.

CFPA thanks you for your leadership on helping low-income Californians achieve financial stability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Cannon", written in a cursive style.

Melissa Cannon
Nutrition Policy Advocate
California Food Policy Advocates

cc: Jessica Bartholow, Western Center on Law and Poverty
Kevin Aslanian, Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations
Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher, Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations