



Los Angeles Office
205 S. Broadway, Suite 205
Los Angeles, CA 90012

March 10, 2017

Honorable Scott D. Wiener
Chair, Senate Human Services Committee
1020 N Street, Room 521
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support SB 278 (Wiener) – CalFresh Overissuances

Dear Chairperson Wiener:

California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) supports your bill, Senate Bill 278 (Wiener), which will allow the CalFresh program to operate more cost effectively by requiring the California Department of Social Services (DSS) to set a minimum threshold for collecting CalFresh overissuances. It will also provide enhanced protections to CalFresh recipients when they, through no fault of their own, are overissued food benefits as part of a mass overissuance.

When CalFresh benefits are overissued, federal law requires counties to collect the overissuance and reimburse the federal program. Federal law has established a threshold of \$125 for collecting administrative overpayments, but permits states to set higher thresholds if the state establishes that the cost of collection is greater than \$125. California law allows, but does not require, DSS to set a minimum cost-effect threshold for collecting CalFresh overissuances. Additionally, federal law establishes that the state or county should be required to reimburse the federal program when overissuance was a result of negligence or fraud on the part of a CalFresh program administrator or major a systemic error.

CalFresh recipients are some of the most economically destitute families in Californians. We should ensure that, when allowed by federal law, we avoid the hardship of paying back an overissuance when the error that caused it was caused by the county human services agency. SB 278 does that.

For these reasons, CFPA supports SB 278 and looks forward to helping you secure passage of this important measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jared Call". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jared Call, Managing Nutrition Policy Advocate

CC: Jessica Bartholow, Western Center on Law and Poverty (Sponsor)
Kevin Aslanian, Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organization (Sponsor)