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March 3, 2014

Honourable Holly Mitchell  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: Support for SB 899

Dear Senator Mitchell,

California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) support SB 899, which would repeal California's Maximum Family Grant (MFG) rule. This policy excludes certain low-income children from receiving CalWORKs benefits if they are born after their families begin receiving aid.

CFPA is a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. One of CFPA's goals is to ensure the eligible California families have access to and participate in the federal nutrition programs, including CalFresh. By default California families receive CalWORKs benefits also receive CalFresh nutrition assistance. Together CalWORKs and CalFresh benefits ensure that families have the resources necessary to access nutritious food and thrive in good health.

Among the purposes of the CalWORKs program are the protection and preservation of the family unity and the financial maintenance of children who are poor. The MFG policy essentially denies children CalWORKs benefits for basic necessities. By denying these newborn children benefits the entire household budget is negatively impacted while the expense of providing basic needs increases. Though the repeal of the MFG rule will not positively impact CalFresh benefits, it will increase the overall household budget and therefore make it more likely that families are able to effectively meet their basic needs, including nutrition.

For this reason, CFPA supports SB 899 and thanks you for introducing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexis Fernández", written over a horizontal line.

Alexis Fernández  
Nutrition Policy Advocate  
California Food Policy Advocates