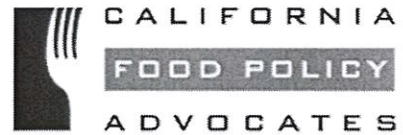


April 1, 2014

The Honorable Carol Liu  
Member, California State Senate  
25th District  
State Capitol Room 5097  
Sacramento, CA 95814



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**RE: SB 999 - CalFresh - SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Liu:

California Food Policy Advocates is writing to communicate our support for SB 999.

CFPA is a statewide, nonprofit policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. CFPA pursues this mission by expanding access to and participation in the federal nutrition programs, including CalFresh, which provides over 4 million Californians with essential nutrition assistance.


SB 999 seeks to increase CalFresh enrollment among low-income community college students. A lack of clarity around student eligibility rules contributes to low CalFresh utilization and reduces the likelihood that students are able to access proper nutrition, while focusing on successfully completing their education. SB 999 requires the development and dissemination of information targeting students in order to encourage CalFresh enrollment.

Additionally, SB 999 seeks to maximize California's drawdown of federal funds intended to address the workforce training needs of low-income Californians who participate in the CalFresh program. Increasing the use of these funds across California's community colleges will directly benefit low-income students.

SB 999 makes significant progress in addressing food insecurity and hunger among California's low-income students, therefore improving the likelihood of their academic success. For these reasons CFPA supports SB 999 and thanks you for introducing this important legislation.

If I can provide additional information, please contact me at 213.482.8200 x201.

Sincerely,

  
Matthew Sharp  
Senior Advocate