



# Senator Melissa Hurtado

REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 14

## Senate Bill 464 Food For All: California Food Assistance Program Eligibility Expansion

*As introduced February 16, 2021*

### SUMMARY

SB 464 modernizes the California Food Assistance Program, expanding eligibility for state funded nutrition benefits to anyone ineligible for CalFresh due solely to their immigration status.

### PROBLEM

The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic crisis has exacerbated hardship across the state, particularly among low-wage immigrants and their families. While most low-income Californians have been helped by federal relief programs and/or CalFresh, many immigrants have been left out of relief measures due to their immigration status.

Undocumented immigrants, DACA recipients, Temporary Protected Status holders, and certain visa holders are excluded from federal CalFresh and our state-funded California Food Assistance Program (CFAP).

These exclusions force immigrant households to make impossible choices between buying groceries and covering the cost of rent, utilities, or other basic needs. It limits their ability to achieve economic security and mobility -- deepening racial

disparities and slowing our economy's recovery from this and future recessions.

### BACKGROUND

Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of Californians, as high as approximately 1 in 10, were experiencing food insecurity. Ineligible for most food assistance, California's two million undocumented immigrants were experiencing food insecurity at even higher rates.

### SOLUTION

SB 464 allows noncitizen immigrants to be eligible for the California Department of Social Services-administered California Food Assistance Program, if the individual satisfies all other CalFresh eligibility criteria. In doing so, the bill provides greater food security to low-income immigrants while lifting many out of poverty, as CalFresh is proven to do.

### SUPPORT

- NourishCA
- California Immigrant Policy Center

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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