

AB 164 Sample Support Letter

AB 164 (Arambula) will enable California Food Assistance to be provided through the CalFresh EBT system. Now is the time for California to be proactive. AB 164 would create a cost-effective and flexible pathway for the State to provide supplemental nutrition benefits that promote health, or to react to harmful changes in federal SNAP eligibility.

How you can help: we encourage organizations and individuals to use this sample letter or write their own letter in support of AB 164 and improving California's ability to effectively respond to food insecurity and hunger.

Please submit a letter of support today!!

**Letters are due to the Senate Human Services Committee before Tues, June 20.
Please RESUBMIT an updated letter if you sent one before to be on record in the Senate.**

Email letters to taryn.smith@sen.ca.gov, mark.teemer@sen.ca.gov,
Marla.Cowan@asm.ca.gov & tracey@cfpa.net.

Organizations: please be sure to submit your letter on letterhead.
Individuals: please be sure to include your mailing address in your letter.

Questions? Please contact Tracey Patterson at 510.433.1122 x101 or tracey@cfpa.net.

[Date]

The Honorable Scott Wiener, Chair
Human Services Committee, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4066
Sacramento, CA

Re: Assembly Bill 164 (Arambula) – SUPPORT

Dear Chairperson Wiener,

[I am/Name of your organization is] writing in support of AB 164 (Arambula), legislation that will create flexibility for California Food Assistance to be provided through the CalFresh EBT system if federal assistance does not meet California's needs. AB 164 would enable the State to effectively provide supplemental nutrition benefits that promote health, or to react to harmful changes in federal SNAP eligibility that could harm Californians.

[I/We] support AB 164 because **[choose one or more of the following reasons or add your own]**

- **AB 164 will improve California's ability to respond to the nutritional needs of low-income Californians.** Building a more flexible mechanism for California Food Assistance is good governance – it allows the State to effectively and efficiently respond

when needed. AB 164 provides the State with another “tool in the toolbox” to fight hunger, promote health and mitigate poverty.

- **CalFresh is the state’s largest and most effective program to address hunger, reduce poverty and improve health.** While CalFresh is primarily a federally-funded program, we have used this system and state resources to address specific food needs for some lawfully-present immigrants and working families. AB 164 will allow the state to use existing systems to direct nutrition assistance when it is needed.
- **AB 164 creates a cost-effective way for the state to respond to changing needs for food aid.** Federal CalFresh benefits are set at the national level without regard to local food prices, or the special needs of specific populations. Federal eligibility criteria are set without state consideration of which residents are most in need of assistance. AB 164 strengthens the state’s ability to minimize adverse impacts to the health and safety of individuals and communities.
- **Now is the time for California to be proactive.** There is a great deal of instability in federal policy right now, and we cannot predict how this will affect California’s most vulnerable residents, including our immigrant residents. We should enable state leadership to respond to the nutrition needs of Californians. AB 164 allows California to promote health and mitigate harm, in line with California values.

[If you prefer, insert your own reason here.]

AB 164 ensures that state food assistance systems function efficiently and cost-effectively. We urge your support on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

[Your name and title]

[Your organization, if applicable]

cc: Tracey Patterson, California Food Policy Advocates (sponsor)