

[Sender's address]
October 10, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara, Chair
Appropriations Committee, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 164 (Arambula) – SUPPORT

Dear Chairperson Lara,

My name is [student name] and I am a Nutrition and Dietetics student at California State University, Northridge. I am writing to you about an issue of concern and importance to me. I am 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 support AB 164 because it will improve California's ability to respond to the nutritional needs of low-income Californians. Utilizing a 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 fluidity for developing methods to fight hunger, promote health and mitigate poverty.

Every day, I come across California residents suffering from food insecurity. As a college student, there are many of my peers that suffering from hunger that go unnoticed and unaddressed. We are a sample population that AB 164 could positively affect. Similarly, I am active in community outreach and part of Champions for Change, a Department of Public Health initiative to fight food insecurity through education. Our participants are CalFresh eligible, yet most of them are not being served properly. An "AYE" vote from you on AB 164 will change the quality of life for many people that are eligible.

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

I am looking forward to your reply by October 24, 2017 as to whether you are or are not in support of AB 164. Please contact me at my address above.

Sincerely,
[student name]

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