



March 30, 2018

The Honorable Blanca E. Rubio,
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
1020 N Street, Room 124
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1894 (Weber): Postsecondary education: student hunger
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Chair Rubio,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, supports AB 1894 (Weber). This bill would improve access to federal benefits for California's low-income college students by expanding the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program to all California State University locations regardless of whether or not their county has chosen to participate in the program for the non-student population.

New research shows the high prevalence of food insecurity and hunger on California's College campuses. According to California State University (CSU), one in five CSU students experience hunger and one in ten experience homelessness. The University of California Regents found in a recent survey that one in five University of California (UC) students do not have access to adequate food or nutrition. Furthermore, nationwide, reports from the Hope Lab, which conducts research aimed at improving equitable outcomes in postsecondary education, show that half of all community college students are struggling with housing and/or food insecurity.

Food insecurity in higher education can impair a young person's ability to concentrate and perform well in their studies.

AB 1894 (Weber) would reduce food insecurity by allowing for every CSU college to allow for students who are homeless to use their CalFresh benefits at college campus cafeterias through the Restaurant Meals Program.

Pediatricians across the state urge you to vote AYE on AB 1894 (Weber). Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris E. Calvin".

Kris Calvin

Chief Executive Officer, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: Assembly Human Services Committee Members

Office of Honorable Shirley Weber, California State Assembly (Author)

Lydia Bourne, AAP-CA Lobbyist