



March 5, 2019

Assembly Member Eloise Gómez Reyes  
Legislative Office Building  
1020 N Street, Room 124  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 341 (Maienschein) CalHEERS: application for CalFresh  
AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Assembly Member Reyes:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing the over 5,000 board-certified pediatrician members of California AAP Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 statewide strongly supports proposed legislation AB 341 (Maienschein) streamlining the CalFresh application process by allowing Medi-Cal applicants who also wish to apply for CalFresh to have their Medi-Cal application qualify as an application for CalFresh benefits.

CalFresh, known federally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP, offers monthly food benefits to low-income individuals and families providing improved access to nutritious food. Yet, one in three Californians eligible for CalFresh do not participate. One barrier to participation is confusion about filing duplicate forms.

When individuals apply for health care assistance through the California Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment and Retention System (CalHEERS) for Covered California, their eligibility for CalFresh is also determined. In order for them to receive CalFresh benefits, however, the applicants are required to complete a new CalFresh application even when though the previously entered Medi-Cal application information can be used for CalFresh eligibility determination.

AB 341 (Maienschein) would require the county, upon receipt of an application received from CalHEERS, to treat the application as an application for CalFresh benefits and to process the application, streamlining the application process and helping more families in need to receive benefits. Pediatricians across the state urge you to vote AYE on AB 341 (Maienschein).

Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of the children, youth, and families of California.

Sincerely,

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

Kris Calvin  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

Cc: AAP-CA Leadership; Lobbyist Lydia Bourne