



March 5, 2019

Senator Melissa Hurtado  
Chair, Committee on Human Services  
1020 N Street, Room 521  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 173 (Dodd) CalFresh: postsecondary student eligibility: work study  
AAP-CA Position: Support**

Dear Senator Hurtado:

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 SB 173 (Dodd) requiring the creation of a standardized form to verify the work/study eligibility of students so they may receive 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. Many University of California, State, and Community College students who participate in state or federal work study programs are unaware that they meet one of the numerous criteria (exemptions) needed to qualify for CalFresh as a student. Even if they are aware, it can be difficult to acquire the right form since many colleges and universities use different forms for the same student eligibility determination purposes. The confusion about forms also makes it more difficult for county staff who process CalFresh applications.

SB 173 will increase awareness and utilization of CalFresh by college students participating in work study programs, make it easier to apply for the food support benefit, and make it easier to process the information on the county level. Pediatricians across the state urge you to vote AYE on SB 173 (Dodd).

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, appearing to read "Mona Patel".

Mona Patel, MD  
Co-Chair State Government Affairs Committee  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

Cc: Kris Calvin; AAP-CA Leadership