



**American Academy of Pediatrics, California**  
5000 Campus Drive Newport Beach, CA 92660  
**Phone** (626) 796-1632 | **Fax**  
(626) 628-3382  
**Email:** office@aap-ca.org | www.AAP-CA.org

---

January 27, 2021

Senator Bill Dodd  
State Capitol, Room 2082  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SB 20 (Dodd): Student Nutrition: Eligibility for CalFresh benefits**  
**AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Dodd,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 3,000 pediatrician members strongly supports SB 20 as introduced on December 7, 2020, which will improve existing student-aid forms to help identify CalFresh eligibility and ensure students are proactively informed of their benefits.

CalFresh, known federally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP, provides monthly food benefits to individuals and families with low-income. Yet, millions of eligible Californians, including community college students, are not receiving the benefits they deserve. Nearly one in three California college students faces food and housing insecurity, according to a survey by the California Student Aid Commission. Students of color are more likely than others to report needs in both areas, the survey said. (“2018–19 Student Expenses and Resources Survey: An Initial Look at the Obstacles Students Face Affording Higher Education,” California Student Aid Commission, November 2019.) Food insecurity is associated with lower grades, higher rates of absenteeism, and problems focusing. (“Health and Academic Achievement,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, May 2014.)

SB 20 would require the Student Aid Commission to notify students who qualify for a community college enrollment fee waiver that they may also qualify for benefits under the CalFresh program. Ensuring that students do not go hungry is important in terms of their personal health, but also in terms of community health. By making college more accessible to all, the community builds a diverse and well-educated workforce that will be able to tackle the challenges facing our state.

Pediatricians of California AAP Chapters 1, 3 and 4 across the state strongly support SB 20. 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 "N. Pfaff". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Nora Pfaff, MD FAAP  
Member, State Government Affairs Committee  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP Leadership