

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Steve Bennett
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0037

RE: AB-674 (Bennett): Dependent children: documents
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Bennett,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 3,000 pediatrician members strongly supports AB 674, as amended on March 25, 2021. This bill would require county welfare workers to document that they have provided dependents with written information about where and how to apply for CalFresh benefits when the dependents turn 18.

Foster youths above the age of 18 often struggle to become self-sufficient when they age out of the foster care system. These youths are more likely than their peers who have not lived in foster care to experience food insecurity. According to Chapin Hall's California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (or CalYOUTH), one in five transition age youth reported that they ate less than they should, and one in six youth reported that someone in their household skipped meals because of unaffordability¹. Almost one quarter of the participants reported not eating for a whole day almost every month. Overall, 30% of the transition age youth who participated in the study qualified as being food insecure using the measure set by the United States Department of Agriculture. Most notably, according to the County Welfare Directors Association, at age 19, only 33% of current and former foster youth had ever accessed CalFresh.

CalFresh, known federally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP, provides monthly food benefits to individuals and families with low-income. Many people are unaware that they qualify for CalFresh and are intimidated by the application process. It is important that transitioning youth be notified that this support is available to them, and that these youths are given information about how to access the support of CalFresh.

AAP-CA strongly supports AB 674. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,



Nancy Graff, MD FAAP
Member, State Government Affairs Committee
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP Leadership

¹ <https://www.chapinhall.org/research/cal youth/>