

April 20, 2021

The Honorable Scott Wiener
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

SB 107 (Wiener): CalFresh
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Wiener,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 3,000 pediatrician members strongly supports SB 107, as amended on February 18, 2021, which would establish the Elderly Simplified Application Project. This bill would require that seniors and people with disabilities be offered a simplified CalFresh application process including options to apply in person, online, or over telephone.

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 are not receiving the benefits they deserve. According to the US Department of Agriculture, approximately 35.3 million Americans experienced food insecurity in 2019, with Black and Hispanic families experiencing disproportionate fates of hunger. The organization Feeding America reported in 2020 that 5.3 million seniors, or 7.3% of the senior population, were food insecure in 2018, with Covid-19 currently exacerbating the situation.

It's estimated that 2.7 million grandparents are raising grandchildren in the United States¹ and 4 million parents with disabilities are raising children.² Seniors and people with disabilities face many barriers when trying to apply for SNAP/CalFresh benefits, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic when sheltering in place is key to preventing the spread of the disease. SB 107 would make it easier for seniors and people with disabilities to apply from home and offer an easier application process overall.

AAP-CA strongly supports SB 107. Thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,



Jacques Corriveau, MD FAAP
Chair, State Government Affairs Committee
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

cc: AAP Leadership

¹ <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/more-grandparents-raising-their-grandchildren>

² <https://lookingglass.org/national-services/national-center>