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April 20, 2021

The Honorable Melissa Hurtado  
State Capitol, Room 4032  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 464 (Hurtado) California Food Assistance Program: Eligibility.**  
**AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Hurtado,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA) representing over 3,000 pediatrician members strongly supports SB 464, as amended on March 17, 2021, which would make a noncitizen applicant eligible for the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) if the noncitizen satisfies all eligibility criteria for participation in the CalFresh program except any requirements related to immigration status.

CalFresh, known federally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP, provides monthly food benefits to individuals and families with low-income. CFAP provides monthly food benefits for noncitizens of the United States, if they meet SNAP eligibility requirements and entered the United States after a certain date and are sponsored, among other criteria. This means that Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, and certain other visa holders are excluded from CalFresh and CFAP eligibility.

Children who are food insecure — having limited or uncertain access to enough food — are likely to be sick more often, recover from illness more slowly, and be hospitalized more frequently regardless of their immigration status.<sup>1</sup> SB 464 would make non-citizen immigrants eligible for CFAP if they satisfy all other CalFresh eligibility requirements so more children can receive adequate nutrition.

AAP-CA strongly supports SB 464. 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

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<sup>1</sup> <https://frac.org/aaptoolkit>