



Los Angeles Office  
205 S. Broadway, Suite 205  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**March 10, 2017**

Sen. Mike McGuire  
Chair, Senate Governance & Finance Committee  
State Capitol, Room 408  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for SB 61 (Hertzberg) – Emergency Food for Families Tax Checkoff Fund**

Dear Senator McGuire,

California is home to 5 million – or 1 in 8 – people struggling with food insecurity, including 1 in 4 children. The Statewide food bank network provides a critical resource in addressing this need; among the 41 food banks that operate in every county of the State, they collectively serve 2 million people a year.

California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) writes to you regarding SB 61 to renew the Emergency Food for Families tax checkoff Fund. CFPA is a statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. Throughout our more than 20 years of experience, we have worked to achieve a healthy and food secure California. We understand the vital need for this legislation from our statewide perspective.

The Emergency Food for Families Fund provides critical financial support to these food banks that work every day to end hunger in California. With the tremendous purchasing power that food banks are able to leverage, they can turn \$1 into 5 meals. In 2016, the \$501,959<sup>1</sup> raised provided the equivalent of 2.5 million meals.

The Emergency Food for Families Fund (EFFF) is one of the most long-standing and well-funded Individual Voluntary Contribution Funds.<sup>2</sup> Initiated in 1998, the EFFF has been on the list of Individual Voluntary Contributions for nearly 20 years. It has consistently been one of the best supported funds by California taxpayers, raising more than \$5 million since its inception. Donations are efficiently driven to the CalFood program through a strong partnership with the Department of Social Services.

The Fund is the only consistent source of state support for our emergency food network – with no cost to the General Fund. Funds enable food banks to purchase expensive but vital California produce, protein, and other items that support a healthy population and prevent costly use of public services. For these reasons, CFPA is in strong support of SB 61.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jared Call".

Jared Call, Managing Nutrition Policy Advocate

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ftb.ca.gov/individuals/vcfsr/reports/009.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ftb.ca.gov/individuals/vcfsr/indvolcon.shtml>