Insert organization logo here

September 8, 2011

The Honorable Jerry Brown

Governor, State of California

State Capitol, First Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax: (916) 558-3177

RE: Signature Request, AB 69 - CalFresh Senior Nutrition Benefits (Beall)

Dear Governor Brown,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Insert organization name) respectfully requests your signature on AB 69- CalFresh Senior Nutrition Benefits. AB 69 allows counties to utilize Social Security information to facilitate senior enrollment in CalFresh. Many seniors struggle to make ends meet on fixed incomes; AB 69 is an innovative approach to reaching a population that is traditionally isolated. Given the fast growth of the elderly population, this bill is long overdue, and it could establish California as a leader in reducing senior hunger.

My organization \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Explain the mission of your organization and why AB 69 is important to it/its mission).

I support AB 69 because: Choose one or more of the following bullets:

* **AB 69 targets CalFresh enrollment on a population with great need.** Currently, only one in ten eligible seniors receives CalFresh; among Social Security recipients, only one in twenty eligible seniors participates. The elderly population frequently relies on a fixed income, and should not have to choose between buying food or buying medication. As the senior population increases, it is advantageous to develop a sound senior CalFresh enrollment strategy given California’s unique Cashout policy for seniors receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
* **AB 69 is a chance to reverse California’s history of low senior participation in CalFresh.** Because seniors face specific barriers to enrollment, this bill uses enrollment techniques that have been successful in other states. What makes AB 69 unique is that it targets a new population of seniors, Social Security recipients. This bill is an opportunity for California to develop an enrollment strategy that could potentially become a national model.
* **AB 69 is smart policy, and it exemplifies good government.** In a state where fresh food and agriculture are abundant, no senior should face food hardship. This bill is a great step forward in ensuring that all seniors receive the benefits to which they are entitled.
* **AB 69 is good for the economy.** Eligible seniors are not the only ones that would benefit from AB 69 and the CalFresh benefits that it would provide. According to the Unites States Department of Agriculture (USDA), every dollar in CalFresh benefits generates $1.79 in economic activity. AB 69 presents a great opportunity to bring more than $425 million federal dollars into the local economy during these tough economic times, while also ensuring that seniors are receiving proper nutrition.

Both the Social Security Administration and the Department of Social Services are committed to increasing senior CalFresh enrollment. In addition, a bipartisan group of grocers, farmers, senior groups, and anti-hunger advocates support this bill and see it as a mechanism to alleviate food hardship among seniors, draw more federal nutrition benefits to California, and boost the economy.

We appreciate your consideration of this important bill to improve California’s senior participation in CalFresh, and urge your signature.

Sincerely,

Name

Organization