

March 20, 2012



Honorable Carol Liu  
Chair, Senate Human Services Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Re: Support for SB 1391

Dear Senator Liu,

California Food Policy Advocate (CFPA) is writing in support AB 1391, which aims to set a standard, statewide threshold for establishing and collecting CalFresh overissuances of benefits from clients when it is the result of an administrative error.

CFPA is a statewide public policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. One of CFPA's major goals is to increase access to and participation in the federal nutrition programs, including CalFresh. CalFresh provides low-income Californians with critical nutrition benefits aimed at supporting individuals and families during these difficult economic times. In addition to focusing on increased access and participation, we work to preserve the integrity of CalFresh while promoting the implementation of program improvements that increase administrative efficiency.

This bill would align California policy with other states in setting the collection of CalFresh overissuances at \$125 or greater if the state establishes that the cost-effective rate for collecting overissuances is higher. It would relieve counties of the time and expense required to pursue collections from clients who have relatively small amounts of benefit overissuances resulting from an administrative error. This legislation would not alter California's efforts to collect overissuances that result from client errors or fraud. In addition, this legislation would require that, when an overpayment is established, the recipient receive an explanation of how it was derived and the methodology for repayment.

By preventing confusion among recipients who receive a request for repayment of an overissuance caused by administrative error, SB 1391 will improve the perception of the program. Additionally, by relieving county administrators of the time required to pursue relatively small benefit overpayments, they can effectively use their time to help eligible individuals and families receive timely, quality assistance.

For these reasons, CFPA supports AB 1391 and we thank you for introducing this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexis Fernandez", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Alexis Fernandez  
Nutrition Policy Advocate  
California Food Policy Advocates

CC: Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,  
Jessica Bartholow, Western Center on Law and Poverty