



1970 Broadway, Suite 760
Oakland, CA 94612
www.cfpa.net

April 3, 2020

The Honorable Dr. Pan
Chair, Senate Health Committee
State Capitol, Room
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1073 (Gonzalez) SUPPORT

Dear Senator Pan,

On behalf of California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA), I write to express our support for Senate Bill 1073 by Senator Lena A. Gonzalez.

CFPA is a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. We also work to improve access to the federal nutrition programs, including WIC, and for more effective policy and programmatic alignment between health and nutrition programs. We believe that all Californians, regardless of individual circumstances, deserve access to resources that help them meet their most basic needs.

SB 1073 increases access to critical health and nutrition services to some of California's most vulnerable populations: young children and pregnant women. To accomplish this, SB 1073 will create a pathway by which eligibility can be sent from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to assess eligibility for Medi-Cal and vice-versa. Additionally, SB 1073 would expedite access to Medi-Cal for young children and pregnant women already enrolled in WIC.

Currently, many young children and women who are eligible for both WIC and Medi-Cal are enrolled in only one program. An estimated 87,000 children and 11,000 pregnant women enrolled in WIC do not have Medi-Cal, despite their eligibility. Likewise, over 512,000 Medi-Cal children are eligible for WIC but are not enrolled. Together, hundreds of thousands of expecting mothers and children who are eligible for vital health and nutrition services are not getting the support they are qualified to receive.



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SB 1073 will use simple data-sharing technology to make coverage more accessible to young children and pregnant women across the state.

For these reasons, CFPA supports SB 1073 and urges your 'Aye' vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jared Call". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jared Call, California Food Policy Advocates

CC: Office of Senator Lena A. Gonzalez
Kristen Golden Testa, The Childrens Partnership