

June 7, 2018

Honorable Scott Wiener
Chair, Senate Human Services Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814



Support AB 1921 (Maienschein) – Homeless Families with Children

Dear Chairperson Wiener:

On behalf of California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA), I am writing to express our support for Assembly Bill 1921, which would help more low-income families achieve economic self sufficiency by increasing access to temporary and permanent housing assistance for families with children.

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. Throughout our more than 25 years of experience, we have worked to achieve a healthy and food-secure California. Today, many people in our great state are faced with sky-high housing costs. As the cost of living continues to rise, many families are teetering on the edge of stability. We need policy solutions so California's low-income families with children are not forced to choose between basics like food and paying rent.

Removing the consecutive day requirement for temporary housing assistance and allowing CalWORKs recipients to use permanent housing assistance payment towards shared housing would help prevent against hunger by increasing access to housing assistance. The primary goal of the CalWORKs program is to move families out of poverty and towards economic self sufficiency. At present, families on CalWORKs find their path towards self sufficiency is restricted, because of unnecessary obstacles: One instance of receiving temporary housing assistance, even if it is for less than 16 days in total, can bar a family from receiving additional assistance for a year; Families can only use housing assistance payments with commercial establishments or a person in the business of renting properties, and can not pursue certain shared-home living accommodations for families with children. Removing these obstacles will support CalWORKs recipients as they work towards a better future for themselves and their children.

For these reasons, CFPA supports AB 1921 and respectfully requests your "Aye" vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Cannon".

Melissa Cannon, Policy Advocate
California Food Policy Advocates

Cc:

Carli Olson, Office of Honorable Brian Maienschein, California State Assembly (Author)

Kevin Aslanian, Coalition of California Welfare Rights Advocates (Co-Sponsor)

Jessica Bartholow, Western Center on Law and Poverty (Co-Sponsor)

Cathy Senderling-McDonald, County Welfare Directors Association (Co-Sponsor)