



August 30, 2018

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 244 (Lara): Privacy: personal information – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Lara,

California Food Policy Advocates strongly supports SB 244 (Lara), which protects individual privacy by prohibiting certain public agencies from disclosing personal information for purposes not related to the administration of public programs. The most recent amendments strike an important balance between the need to collect information in the course of administering a program while also protecting individual, private information in specific circumstances where the information may be highly sensitive.

California Food Policy Advocates is a statewide policy advocacy organization that seeks to improve access to healthy and affordable food for low-income Californians. We strongly support state policy, such as SB 244, that would mitigate harm to our immigrant residents in an environment of heightened fear, mistrust and federal attacks. California has made great strides in the past 15 years in celebrating and valuing the presence of diverse immigrant communities within the state. In recognition of this value, California has worked to ensure that all residents have access to critical services and can contribute to and participate fully in our economy by obtaining professional licenses, driver's licenses, financial aid, and health care for their children.

SB 244 ensures that certain essential public health and other programs can fulfill their missions by protecting the personal information of their applicants and recipients. At a time when immigrants are particularly fearful of enrollment, SB 244 encourages participation by ensuring personal information is not needlessly shared with the federal government, thereby improving public health and safety outcomes.

As such, California Food Policy Advocates supports SB 244 and thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracey Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tracey Patterson
Director of Legislation
California Food Policy Advocates

Cc: Daisy Luna, Office of Senator Lara
Gina Da Silva, California Immigrant Policy Center