**AB 311 (Santiago) “Food for All” Sample Support Letter**

**How you can help:** Submit a letter in support of AB 311 (Santiago). Use this sample letter or write your own letter outlining the importance of this bill. After submitting your letter, please share your support via social media, emails, calls, and meetings.

**Please submit your letter no later than Friday, June 28.**

**Submit letters directly through the State’s online Advocate Portal for Legislative Position Letters:**

[**https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/**](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)

**\*NOTE:** You will need to create an account for yourself/your organization to upload letters through the portal.

**Organizations:** Please be sure to submit your letter on your organization letterhead.

**Individuals:** Please be sure to include your mailing address in your letter.

**[PLACE YOUR ORGANIZATION’S LETTERHEAD]**

**[Date]**

The Honorable Anna Caballero

Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee

State Capitol, 412

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for AB 311 (Santiago): Food for All**

Dear Chair Caballero,

**[I am/Name of your organization is]** writing in support of AB 311 (Santiago) “Food for All”, which would expand the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) to provide vital food benefits to income-eligible Californians who are currently ineligible due to their immigration status.

California immigrants experience high levels of food insecurity as a result of racial and economic disparities that exist within our state’s safety net programs. Unjust exclusions based on immigration status create gaps in the safety net that make it harder for immigrant communities to access the basic resources they need.

Children in families with undocumented immigrant members are three to four times more likely to struggle to meet their basic needs than children in non-immigrant households[[1]](#footnote-0). In fact, 64 percent of undocumented Californians of all ages are living in or near poverty, compared to 35 percent statewide[[2]](#footnote-1). When families don’t have enough resources, they are more likely to experience food insecurity. Additionally, two out of five (41 percent) undocumented children live in poverty and three out of five (64 percent) experience food insecurity[[3]](#footnote-2), which puts them at risk of serious consequences for health and long-term wellbeing. While CFAP provides a critical lifeline for many Californians with low income, it excludes between 540,000 to 770,000[[4]](#footnote-3) Californians on the basis of their immigration status.

**[If you would like to, insert your own reason(s) for supporting AB 311 here.]**

To effectively address increasing food insecurity, reduce poverty and homelessness, and build a true California for All, it is critical that California eliminates anti-immigrant exclusions within CFAP and bring equity to our state’s food safety net. California has a longstanding history of enacting inclusive policies and has the power to end the exclusion of immigrants from our food benefits programs. Until all California residents can access food benefits if and when they need it, our institutions will not fully reflect the state’s values of equity and inclusion.

Ensuring immigrant Californians are treated fairly and have sufficient food are important steps toward an equitable California where prosperity is shared by all. Now is the time for California to champion bold policies and put forth a different vision for our nation, one where all Californians — regardless of immigration status — have the food they need to thrive.

For these reasons, we strongly support AB 311 and respectfully request your support.

Sincerely,

**[Your name and title]**

**[Your organization, if applicable]**

cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee

Assemblymember Miguel Santiago

1. <https://childrenspartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/AChildIsaChild_Children-in-Immigrant-Families-2022-FINAL.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. <https://nourishca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2024-Food4All-infographic.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. <https://nourishca.org/food4all-research/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. Estimates from a January 2024 report from the Legislative Analyst’s Office [↑](#footnote-ref-3)