**Please send a support letter – On your letter head**

**Sample Support Letter – Assembly Bill 1377 (Wicks)**

**Send Email To:** Samantha Huynh, [Samantha.Huynh@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Samantha.Huynh@asm.ca.gov)

**CC copy to:** [csend@cwda.org](mailto:csend@cwda.org); [becky@cafoodbanks.org](mailto:becky@cafoodbanks.org)

**Submit via the portal:** [**https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/**](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)

**[Date]**

The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair

Senate Appropriations Committee

State Capitol, Room 3086

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1377 (Wicks) – CalFresh – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Portantino,

[Name of Your Organization] supports Assembly Bill 1377 (Wicks), which will direct state agencies and key stakeholders to develop a statewide process that will examine data and determine how to bridge differences across the free/reduced meals program, Medi-Cal, and CalFresh in order to accelerate enrollment of children and families into the CalFresh program.

[Please include a brief description of organization]

Food insecurity among households with school-age children remains high across California. Children who grow up in food-insecure households often fall behind compared to their food-secure peers in terms of cognitive, emotional and physical development. These students are at great risks of mental, social, emotional, and behavioral problems that can negatively impact their academic achievement. Studies indicate that food-insecure children are almost twice as likely to be in fair or poor health when compared to food-secure children. We estimate that a significant portion of these food-insecure families are receiving free and reduced-price meals at school, but are not yet receiving benefits through CalFresh.

A significant portion of food-insecure families are receiving free and reduced-price meals but are not yet receiving benefits through CalFresh. Similarly, low-income families may be enrolled in the Medi-Cal program but not in CalFresh, though they appear likely eligible. The data and eligibility requirements for CalFresh, Medi-Cal and the reduced-price school meals program are complicated and treat different aspects of a family’s household and income differently, which makes also it more difficult for eligible children and families to easily participate and be enrolled in across the programs, especially in CalFresh.

AB 1377 will bring together relevant departments, local human services agencies, school nutrition representatives, and other key stakeholders in order to find the best possible solutions and process that would streamline and accelerate enrollment for children in CalFresh and provide every available resource to families facing food insecurities. For these reasons, [name of your organization] strongly supports AB 1377.

Sincerely,

**Your Name and Title**

CC: Office of Assembly Member Buffy Wicks

Members and Staff, Senate Committee on Appropriations

Joe Parra, Senate Republican Caucus

Tam Ma, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom