**AB 69 – the Senior Food Security Act of 2011**

Assembly Member Beall has introduced AB 69, the Senior Food Security Act of 2011, a bill to direct the California Department of Social Services to establish a two-location pilot in conjunction with the Social Security Administration to test streamlined strategies to enroll eligible Social Security recipients into CalFresh. AB 69 proposes to:

* **Increase senior enrollment in CalFresh**
* **Establish a replicable model of targeted outreach to eligible Social Security recipients**

AB 69 will soon begin making its way through Assembly Committees. We are asking supporters to fax letters of support to Assembly Member Beall at (916) 319-2124. We encourage organizations, groups, and individuals to use the sample letter below or write their own letters of support. Please “CC” California Food Policy Advocates or fax us a copy of your letter at (510) 433-1131.

Questions? Contact Kerry Birnbach at 510-433-1122 x110 or Kerry@cfpa.net

[Insert Letterhead]

February 10, 2011

The Honorable Jim Beall

State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 94249-0039

Re: Support for AB 69 from the sponsor

Dear Assembly Member Beall,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *[insert name of your organization]* supports AB 69, legislation to direct the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to establish a two-location pilot in conjunction with the Social Security Administration (SSA) to test streamlined strategies to enroll eligible Social Security recipients into CalFresh.

We support AB 69 because *(choose one, more, or all of the following reasons)*:

* **It targets the senior population that is growing, and widely under participating in CalFresh.** Currently, CalFresh is underutilized by seniors in California, and among households with a Social Security recipient, utilization is even smaller. Ten percent of eligible seniors participate in CalFresh and yet only five percent of eligible households with a Social Security recipient participate. This legislation provides a great opportunity to test CalFresh outreach and enrollment targeted at Social Security recipients given California’s unique cashout policy for seniors receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
* **Similar outreach strategies have worked in other states.** Other states have operated Combined Application Projects (CAPs), which target SSI recipients for SNAP (the Food Stamp Program known as CalFresh in California), or used other innovative approaches. Although SSI recipients are ineligible for CalFresh in California, the approaches other states used in CAPs may prove successful if applied to other California senior populations.
* **AB 69 would bring more federal dollars into the California economy.** Seniors would not be the only ones to benefit from CalFresh. My county loses approximately $\_\_\_\_ *[insert your county’s number from* [*this report*](http://www.cfpa.net/LDEP_2010/main.html)*]* in federal food stamp benefits that could be going directly back into the economy, supporting grocers, growers, and local government. According to the Unites States Department of Agriculture (USDA), every dollar in CalFresh benefits generates $1.79 in economic activity. AB 69 presents a great opportunity to bring more federal dollars into the local economy during these tough economic times, while also ensuring that seniors are receiving proper nutrition.

We urge you and your fellow Assembly Members to support AB 69. California seniors cannot afford to lose out on valuable federal nutritional.

Sincerely,

Your name

Your organization

cc. Your own Assembly Member, if on the Human Services Committee (see [committee link](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/newcomframeset.asp?committee=13))

 CFPA