

Floor Alert – SB 900

To: Members, California State Senate
From: California Food Policy Advocates
Date: May 29, 2018
Subject: **Support SB 900 (Wiener)-CA Fruit & Vegetable EBT Pilot**



Opportunity

CalFresh helps over 4 million people put food on the table. Despite the reach of CalFresh, the federal benefit levels limit the ability to purchase healthy foods. **Supplemental nutrition incentive programs provide matching dollars tied to the purchase of California-grown vegetables and fruit.** These programs operate locally across the state to make purchasing California-grown fruits and vegetables more affordable for low-income Californians.



For these efforts to reach their full potential for people, farms, and the economy, we must integrate California fruit and vegetable benefits into the CalFresh EBT card, which is widely accepted by food retailers statewide. **We can advance our state systems to support food security, health and agriculture.**

What Does SB 900 Do?

- ➔ SB 900 would enable the CalFresh EBT system to integrate supplemental nutrition benefits to incentivize California-grown produce purchases.
- ➔ SB 900 would pilot community-based initiatives to earn and redeem supplemental nutrition benefits via EBT at grocery stores and farmers' markets.

Why Support SB 900?

- ➔ SB 900 helps low-income families afford **nutritious, California-grown fruits and vegetables** in order to have a healthy diet. Research has proven time and again that when low-income families have more money for fruits and vegetables, they buy and eat more fruits and vegetables.
- ➔ SB 900 makes CalFresh nutrition incentives more effective and widely available, through a system that is **simple to use, efficient to administer, and easily incorporated into existing retail operations.**
- ➔ SB 900 has **bipartisan and bicameral co-authors, and received bipartisan, unanimous support** in Senate Human Services, Agriculture and Appropriations.
- ➔ SB 900 is supported by **a coalition of 45** food access, public health, and agriculture organizations.



SB 900 Fights Hunger, Improves Health & Supports California Agriculture