



## Floor Alert

**To:** Members, California State Senate

**From:** California Food Policy; AARP California; CA Association of Food Banks; SF-Marin Food Bank

**Date:** May 17, 2019

**Subject:** Support SB 285 (Wiener)- CalFresh Connect

## Opportunity

**Hunger is a solvable problem if we maximize the most powerful tool we have—CalFresh.**

Despite the economic and agricultural riches of California, more than 4.1 million low-income households are food insecure. CalFresh has the greatest poverty reduction impact among social service programs. However, three in ten eligible households don't gain access to CalFresh. Our senior CalFresh enrollment rate is the lowest in the nation- only 20% of eligible seniors get CalFresh. While California has been slowly and steadily improving, we need to make significant progress to connect struggling households to federal food assistance. With SB 285, we can- and must- do better.

## What Does SB 285 Do?

- SB 285 implements comprehensive goals and reforms to improve CalFresh access statewide. This is critical for seniors and the working poor, whom CalFresh most often fails to reach.
- SB 285 is a roadmap to CalFresh success and accountability. Improving enrollment outcomes is urgent and timely, with CalFresh SSI Eligibility Expansion implementation this year.

## Why Support SB 285?

CalFresh has tremendous reach and potential, but accessibility must be improved to get federal food benefits to those struggling to get by. More on the "Lost Dollars" at [bit.ly/CalFresh2019](http://bit.ly/CalFresh2019).

SB 285 has received **unanimous support** in Senate Human Services and Appropriations committees, with a broad coalition of support and no opposition.

## If CalFresh reached all eligible residents...



More information at [cfpa.net/sb285](http://cfpa.net/sb285)