



March 20, 2022

The Hon. _____
Capitol Office, CA State Assembly
1021 "O" Street, P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: Food Assistance in California

Dear Assembly Member,

My church community and I are concerned that all people in California have enough to eat. There are currently a number of pieces of legislation before you that will help achieve that goal. I strongly urge you to support the following legislation:

AB 2589: Because tax credits lift more people out of poverty in our country than any other program, I urge you to co-sponsor and support AB 2589 Earned Income Tax Credit. AB 2589 will benefit nearly 5 million Californians, 2 million of whom are children, through a one-time payment of \$2,000 per child dependent to residents who earned less than \$30,000 in 2021. AB 2589 will also raise the minimum tax credit to \$255 per eligible tax filer and provide much-needed income to vulnerable people. Low-income families who file taxes need tax breaks more than wealthy corporations do.

SB 364: This removes the stigma of who qualifies for meal assistance and who doesn't by providing free school meals for all children in public schools. It ensures ALL children eat well at school. Healthy food and nutrition play an essential part in student success.

SB 464: Immigrants to California contribute to our economy, pay taxes and play an important role in our society but are among our most vulnerable and hungry people which is exasperated by being denied access to public food programs. As a person of faith, I know that the Bible is very clear on how we are to welcome the stranger. I urge you to fund and pass SB 464 Food4All, which allows immigrants to access public food programs.

SB 641: Before the pandemic, 44% of college students in California faced food insecurity, and the percentage was even higher at community colleges. Food insecurity on college campuses leads too many students to drop out of college. SB 641 makes it easier for low-income college students to access food assistance.

SB 1304: California spends \$16 billion per year on Corrections and over \$100,000 annually on each inmate—too many of whom are People of Color, thanks to racial bias in sentencing and racial profiling. Instead of paying for a system that sets up people to fail when they leave prison, let's invest a small part of our budget surplus into helping Returning Citizens succeed rather than risk recidivism. It's in everyone's interests that people leaving prison find jobs, housing, and food. SB 1304 will increase the "release allowance" set in 1973 from \$200 to \$2,590 for Returning Citizens to reflect current costs of food and housing, reducing hunger among vulnerable people, increasing public safety, and takes a step toward greater racial equity.

The pandemic has left too many Californians facing hunger and poverty, including immigrants. Fortunately, the state has a budget surplus and can do something to help vulnerable people escape hunger. I urge you to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

(Print Name) _____

(Address) _____
