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

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

**Submit to:** **leg.unit@gov.ca.gov**

**Send copy to:** Samantha.Huynh@asm.ca.gov; csend@cwda.org; becky@cafoodbanks.org

**[Date] - ASAP**

The Honorable Gavin Newsom

Governor, State of California

State Capitol Building

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1377 (Wicks) – CalFresh – Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom,

[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 across cognitive, emotional and physical development and are at risk 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.

According to the Public Policy Institute of California, some 600,000 low-income children are receiving free and reduced-price meals at school, 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.

Given the federal threats of public charge and other regulatory proposals to weaken CalFresh and the school meal programs, it is more important than ever for the state to bolster the food safety net in a secure fashion.

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, while maintaining privacy, to provide every available resource to families facing food insecurity. For these reasons, [name of your organization] strongly supports AB 1377 and asks for your signature.

Sincerely,

**Your Signature, Name and Title**

CC: Office of Assemblymember Buffy Wicks

California Welfare Directors Association

California Association of Food Banks