

AB 1049 (Rodriguez) - Removing Sponsor Deeming Food4All Sample Support Letter Assembly Appropriations Committee

Submit a letter in support of AB 1049 (Rodriguez). Copy & paste the below sample letter or write your own letter outlining the importance of this bill. After submitting your letter, please share your support via social media, emails, calls, and meetings.

Please submit your letter by **Wednesday April 23 if possible**, but absolutely no later than **Wednesday, May 22nd, 5pm**.

Submit letters directly through the State's online Advocate Portal for Legislative Position Letters:

<https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

***NOTE:** You will need to create an account for yourself/your organization to upload letters through the portal. See this quick reference guide for support: [Position Letter Portal \(Quick Reference Sheet\)](#)

Instructions once you're in the portal:

- Select the "Submit a Letter" (top left corner).
- Enter the bill number (AB 1049) and session type (Regular). Select "Search."
- Ensure that the proper bill has been populated and select "Next."
- On the "Submit Letter as" page, either select individual or organization.
- Ensure that **Assembly Committee on Appropriations** is selected. Select "Next."
- Upload your letter and select "Support" under "Stance," and enter the subject line: AB 1049 (Rodriguez) - SUPPORT.
- You will be prompted to a final "Review Your Submission" page where you can make sure the information you entered is accurate.
- Once you've done so, select "Submit."

Organizations: Please be sure to submit your letter on your organization letterhead.

Individuals: Please be sure to include your mailing address in your letter.

Once you've submitted your letter, please forward the letter to jackie@nourishca.org and bchao@caimmigrant.org.

[PLACE YOUR ORGANIZATION'S LETTERHEAD]

[Date]

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8140
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1049 (Rodriguez): Removing Sponsor Deeming from CFAP

Dear Chair Wicks,

[I am/Name of your organization is] writing in support of AB 1049 (Rodriguez), which would eliminate a discriminatory rule called sponsor deeming from the eligibility determination process for the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP), streamlining the enrollment process for immigrant communities and ensuring they are able to maximize access to critical food benefits.

[Insert a line about your organization and why you support AB 1049 here.]

Low-income Californians can receive support to help meet their food needs through CalFresh, our state's version of the federally-funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). CFAP is the state-funded counterpart of CalFresh and provides food benefits to thousands of Californians who are unable to access critical food benefits due solely to their immigration status. Because CFAP currently mirrors CalFresh, applicants to both programs are subject to a federal rule called sponsor deeming.

Sponsor deeming¹ is a complex and discriminatory rule that adds a portion of the income and resources of an immigrant's sponsor when determining eligibility for food benefits. Because of its complexity, this rule can cause confusion about eligibility during the enrollment process and lead to low-income immigrant families being wrongfully denied benefits that they are eligible for. Because CFAP is a state-funded program, California's leaders have the power to remove this burdensome and inequitable rule, simplifying enrollment for the families who need it most.

In addition to creating an unnecessary burden for the state, sponsor deeming stigmatizes eligible immigrant families' use of public benefits. A research report produced by the Urban Institute found that in 2022, one in six adults in immigrant

¹ [Sponsored Immigrants and Benefits - NILC](#)

families with children avoided public programs because of green card concerns.² California immigrants already experience high levels of food insecurity as a result of racial and economic disparities that exist within our state's safety net programs. Fear surrounding public benefit access makes it harder for immigrant communities to get the basic resources they need. Sponsor deeming contributes to the existing "chilling effect" brought on by other federal policies like the public charge rule, exacerbating material hardships for immigrant families by increasing fear and decreasing rates of enrollment.

To effectively address increasing food insecurity and build a true California for all, it is critical that California eliminate anti-immigrant policies within CFAP to bring equity to our state's food safety net. California has a responsibility to uphold its commitment to protecting immigrant families. By passing AB 1049, we can strengthen California's food safety net, reduce the chilling effect, and build a simpler pathway for struggling families to find much-needed support, especially in times of economic hardship.

We are hopeful that by implementing AB 1049 we will streamline the application process for Californians eligible for CFAP, resulting in reduced administrative burden and costs for counties. It is our understanding that a separate CFAP application is not necessary – in fact, creating a separate application for CFAP would result in unintended consequences, including increased confusion for mixed-status families that are eligible for both CalFresh and CFAP. Rather, the instructions on the current combined application for CalFresh and CFAP could be updated to reflect the proper protocol and be paired with updated trainings for county eligibility workers on how to assess CFAP eligibility without going through the onerous and unnecessary process of requesting sponsor information. We believe there is a pathway to implementing this bill that does not overly increase costs or change the existing system for enrollment.

At a time when federal policies seek to discourage immigrants from accessing available resources, passing AB 1049 would send a message to Californians that everyone deserves equitable access to basic needs, regardless of their immigration status—California must champion bold, inclusive policies to put forth a different vision for our nation; one where everyone has the food they need to thrive. No exceptions, no exclusions.

For these reasons, we strongly support AB 1049 and respectfully request your support.

Sincerely,

[insert signature here]
[Your name and title]

² [One in Six Adults in Immigrant Families with Children Avoided Public Programs in 2022 Because of Green Card Concerns | Urban Institute](#)

[Your organization, if applicable]

cc: Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
Assemblywoman Celeste Rodriguez