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(Organization Logo)

Date

The Honorable Tina McKinnor  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Room 5520  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1402 (McKinnor) SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember McKinnor:

On behalf of [Your Organization/Your Name], I am writing to express our strong support for AB 1402, which seeks to streamline financial assistance for low-income families and individuals by consolidating the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC), California Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC), and Foster Youth Tax Credit (FYTC) programs into a simplified, direct aid system.

The CalEITC, YCTC, and FYTC programs currently provide vital financial support to vulnerable Californians. However, these programs require extensive administrative processes for both eligibility verification and outreach. Many eligible individuals face significant barriers due to complex application procedures and limited access to information. With the rising cost of living, it is clear that a more efficient, accessible, and direct financial assistance system is needed.

AB 1402 proposes the creation of the California Fresh Start Grant (FSG), a streamlined program that will provide a one-time grant equivalent to the amounts previously available under CalEITC, YCTC, and FYTC for individuals and families applying for CalFresh benefits. The FSG will be provided directly to beneficiaries through a deposit to their bank account or added to their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card, based on the recipient's preference. This solution eliminates the complex tax credit system and associated administrative burdens, making it easier for families to receive financial support.

The FSG will be renewed annually, based on eligibility, and recipients will not have to worry about the additional complication of taxable income as the grant will not count toward their taxable income, although it must still be reported. This simplification will ensure that more individuals and families can access the help they need without unnecessary delays or confusion.

We strongly support AB 1402 and encourage the Legislature to advance this critical measure to ensure more efficient, equitable access to financial assistance for California's most vulnerable communities. Thank you for your leadership in creating a simpler and more direct path for assistance to those who need it most.

Sincerely,

NAME

ORGANIZATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

cc: The Honorable (Chair Name), Chair, (Name of Committee), Members of the (Name of Committee)