The Honorable Corey Jackson

P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94249-0057

**RE: AB 1967 (Jackson) - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Jackson,

On behalf of *[Name of your organization],* I write in strong support of AB 1967, which seeks to create a Food Insecurity Officer (FIO) tasked with coordinating and addressing food insecurity throughout state government operations.

SNAP is an invaluable tool in the fight against food insecurity and poverty. Per the Center of Budget and Policy Priorities, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helped 4,627,700 Californians in fiscal year 2022, and lifted 776,000 people (including 377,000 children) above the poverty line annually in California between 2014 and 2018.

Per the California Association of Food Banks, the United States Census Bureau’s Household Pulse Survey found that 23% of Households and 28% of Households with Children suffered from food insecurity in California.

Per the Center of Budget and Policy Priorities, SNAP is one of the more effective forms of economic stimulus in a bad economy, since every dollar increase in SNAP benefits, generates $1.70 in economic activity.

California is lagging behind other states such as Oregon, Washington State, and even Texas, in its SNAP enrollment rates, with 70% of eligible Californians and only 59% of eligible workers participating in 2018.

In 2018, Oregon saw 95%-100% of eligible individuals and 88% of workers participating in SNAP, while Washington State also saw similar success in 2018, with 95%-100% and 85%, respectively. Even Texas outperformed California in SNAP participation rates for eligible individuals (75%) and workers (74%) in 2018.

Some of the key issues facing California, as it relates to SNAP, are the lack of sufficient application processing timeliness (APT), payment error rates (PER), and case and procedural error rates (CAPER), with California falling below federal minimums in all three metrics.

California can no longer afford to leave options on the table when combating food insecurity, especially when there are existing blueprints that can be used to improve outcomes for working families. For these reasons, we support AB 1967. Please contact me at [*insert contact information*] if you have any questions about our position.

Sincerely,

[*Your Name*]

cc: Chair and members, Assembly Committee on Human Services.