



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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April 30, 2018

Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
Chair, Appropriations Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1894 (WEBER) as introduced – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 1894**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 2, 2018.

The California's Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) allows eligible Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cardholders receiving CalFresh benefits to purchase hot prepared foods at participating restaurants using their EBT benefits. Individuals who are homeless, elderly, or have disabilities and are recipients of EBT are eligible to participate in the RMP.

Among other provisions, AB 1894 requires a campus food facility that participates in the RMP to meet all of the requirements for participation in that program. It authorizes the State Department of Social Services to enter into a statewide memorandum of understanding with the Chancellor of the California State University (CSU) to prevent hunger among college students who are homeless, elderly, or who have disabilities, and to facilitate compliance with these requirements.

DRC believes these are positive policy changes. We further support AB 1894 as it also expands the CalFresh RMP to all CSU locations regardless of whether or not their county has chosen to participate in the program for the non-student population. Low-income college students who have disabilities or those who are homeless already face many barriers and challenges. This expansion removes one of those barriers and ensures these populations will be able to access their benefits and avoid hunger.

For these reasons, DRC supports this bill. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position or if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Evelyn M. Abouhassan".

Evelyn Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Shirley Weber, California State Assembly
Tiffany Boyd, Office of Assembly Member Weber
Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Jennifer Swenson, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Alex Khan, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Committee