



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
INFORMATION UNIT**

1831 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95811-4114
Tel: (916) 504-5800
TTY: (800) 719-5798
Intake Line: (800) 776-5746
Fax: (916) 504-5807
www.disabilityrightsca.org

July 13, 2018

Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Appropriations Committee
California State Senate
Capitol Building, Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1894 (WEBER) as introduced – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino:

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 Senate Appropriations Committee on August 6, 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, Senate Appropriations Committee
Debra Cooper, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Services
Committee
Jennifer Swenson, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations
Committee
Joe Parra, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus Committee