

May 7, 2018

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

**RE: AB 2111 (Quirk) - CalWORKs: sponsored noncitizen: indigent exception. – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher:

On behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of AB 2111 (Quirk) which would align CalWORKs sponsor deeming provisions with those used for CalFresh.

California provides various public social services programs to low income individuals. These include the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, which provides cash assistance and other benefits and the CalFresh program, under which supplemental nutrition assistance benefits are allocated to the state by the federal government and distributed locally to eligible individuals.

Most legal immigrants in the U.S. are eligible for CalWORKs and CalFresh benefits, provided they meet financial and categorical requirements. Sponsored noncitizens – individuals who had financial sponsors when they entered the U.S. – constitute a significant portion of eligible immigrants. Monterey County has a significant number of CalFresh indigent sponsored non-citizens. The County has a smaller, but none-the-less important, number of CalWORKs indigent sponsored noncitizens.

Generally, when a sponsored noncitizen applies for public benefits, the agency verifying their benefits eligibility also adds the income and resources of their sponsor – a process known as “sponsor deeming.” If the sponsor is unable to support them, the welfare agency may issue an indigence exemption to sponsor deeming. In California, if the county determines a sponsored noncitizen would go hungry and homeless without aid, the sponsored noncitizen is determined to be indigent. AB 2111 would allow counties to authorize the annual renewal of indigence determinations for sponsored noncitizens receiving public benefits.

For these reasons, Monterey County is pleased to support AB 2111.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Bill Quirk, California State Assembly  
Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
Jennifer Swenson, Principal Consultant, Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Bill Monning, California State Senate  
The Honorable Anthony Cannella, California State Senate  
The Honorable Anna Caballero, California State Assembly  
The Honorable Mark Stone, California State Assembly  
California State Association of Counties

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