



June 24, 2024

The Honorable Anna Caballero  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 412  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 311 (Santiago) – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Caballero:

In January 2023, the Public Policy Institute of California reported that 10.5 million immigrants reside in California, accounting for nearly a quarter of the total U.S. immigrant population. According to the Center for Migration Studies, 22% of immigrants were undocumented as of 2019. With a significant share of the country’s undocumented population, it is incumbent upon the state to ensure this demographic has relief from food insecurity. Hospitals in California are on the front lines of treating such underserved populations who lack basic needs. **The California Hospital Association, on behalf of its more than 400 member hospitals and health systems, is writing in support of Assembly Bill 311, which would ensure that undocumented immigrants are eligible to receive food assistance benefits.**

Food security correlates to positive health outcomes. The California Hospital Association fully supports efforts to expand access to food assistance and basic needs programs because expanding access will ensure we continue to serve the interest of underserved Californians and their health. Factors such as age or documentation status should not impact whether a person goes without food.

For these reasons, CHA respectfully requests your “AYE” vote and we thank the author for his leadership on this important issue. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at [vgonzalez@calhospital.org](mailto:vgonzalez@calhospital.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Gonzalez" in a cursive script.

Vanessa Gonzalez  
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Miguel Santiago  
The Honorable Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee  
Agnes Lee, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Joe Parra and Tim Conaghan, Consultants, Senate Republican Caucus