



**California  
Catholic  
Conference**

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April 1, 2026

The Honorable Alex Lee, Chair  
Assembly Human Services Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 6330  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2309 (Bains) CalFresh Protection Act.**

Dear Assembly Member Lee and Members of the Assembly Human Services Committee,

The California Catholic Conference **SUPPORTS AB 2309** (Bains) as introduced on 2/19/26. This bill would ensure that CalFresh benefits continue to be issued to existing recipients in the event of a federal funding lapse or federal shutdown.

The recent federal government shutdown in October and November 2025 demonstrated that federal gridlock can directly threaten the food security of California's most vulnerable residents. While California provided support to food banks during shutdown, the inability to access CalFresh benefits via electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards caused significant distress and economic disruption. The lapse in government funding not only impacts vulnerable residents who depend on food assistance but also threatens the stability of local grocers and the capacity for local food banks to meet the increasing demand.

The Catholic Church teaches that "access to food is a human right, not a privilege." Society has a collective responsibility to ensure that all members have access to food, particularly those who are vulnerable or in need. Policies and economic systems must be evaluated by how they affect the hungry and marginalized.

For these reasons as the official public policy voice for the Catholic Church of California, we request that you vote "AYE" on AB 2309. Should you have any questions regarding our position please contact Linda Wanner, Director of Social Justice & Environmental Stewardship at 916.208.4462 or email [lwanner@cacatholic.org](mailto:lwanner@cacatholic.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen Domingo".

Kathleen Buckley Domingo  
Executive Director

KD:LW:mip