



April 1, 2026

The Honorable Matt Haney, Chair
Assembly Housing & Community Development Committee
1021 O Street, Room 5740
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1674 (Ahrens) Food Affordability Act - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Haney and Members of the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee,

The California Catholic Conference SUPPORTS AB 1674 (Ahrens) as introduced on 2/2/26. This bill would create the Food Desert Elimination Grant Program to expand access to healthy foods within areas at risk of becoming food deserts.

Food deserts are an area where residents have limited access to affordable and nutritious food, often due to a lack of grocery stores, farmers' markets, or other healthy food providers. Access to healthy and affordable food should not depend on a person's Zip code. Yet many communities across California continue to experience limited access to full-service grocery stores, particularly in low-income neighborhoods and areas experiencing rapid housing development.

Access to nutritious food is a fundamental human right rooted in dignity. In the light of our Catholic Social Teaching and commitment to the right to life for every person, we believe all people also have basic rights to material and spiritual support, including the right to food and housing, which are required to sustain life and to live a truly human existence. This clear commitment to the dignity and value of every human life must be reflected both in individual choices and actions and in the policies and structures of society.

For these reasons as the official public policy voice for the Catholic Church of California, we request that you vote "AYE" on AB 1674. Should you have any questions regarding our position please contact Linda Wanner, Director for Social Justice & Environmental Stewardship at 916.208.4462 or email lwanner@cacatholic.org.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Buckley Domingo
Executive Director

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