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March 14, 2017

Assemblymember Blanca Rubio
Chair, Human Services Committee
State Capitol, Room 5175
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support SB 563 (Arambula) – Support

Dear Assemblymember Rubio:

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write in support of Assembly Bill 563 which will support CalFresh recipients in securing employment and earnings that will allow them to exit poverty.

Many Californians still struggle with unemployment, underemployment and low wages and consequently experience hunger or are forced to rely on government programs for assistance. Without support to improve their skills, these Californians will remain in poverty regardless of how hard they work.

The recent success of federally funded programs that provide job training to CalFresh recipients has shown that these programs help families secure employment that will allow them to leave public funding programs. But current state law does not provide for seamless access to Cal Fresh Employment and Training Programs (E&T) for low income Californians who are eligible for the program.

AB 565 will bring more employment and training opportunities by: (1) removing the double penalty of unemployment for recipients subject to the Able Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) time limit; (2) establishing a CalFresh E&T Center for Excellence; and (3) clarifying that the Department of Social Services may directly contract with CalFresh E&T providers.

Because it will allow low-income Californians greater access to the training they need to get themselves out of poverty, the California Women's Law Center supports AB 563.

Sincerely,

Betsy Butler
Executive Director