



Contra Costa's Family Economic Security Partnership (FESP)

c/o 1485 Civic Court • Concord, CA 94520 • (925) 771 7331

February 21, 2018

Honorable Senator Nancy Skinner
Honorable Senator Bill Dodd
Honorable Senator Steve Glazer
Honorable Assemblyman Tony Thurmond
Honorable Assemblywoman Catharine Baker
Honorable Assemblyman Tim Grayson
Honorable Assemblyman Jim Frazier

State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Contra Costa State Legislators,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Family Economic Security Partnership (FESP), a public, private and nonprofit collaboration of over 45 organizations dedicated to increasing the income and building the assets of low-income families and individuals living in Contra Costa County. Our goal is to create a countywide vision and strategies to better leverage community resources and enhance community collaboration in order to increase the economic security of low-income families and individuals.

As Chair of FESP, I am writing to express FESP's concern about poverty in California and to urge you to support a budget **that strengthens and expands the safety net and other important anti-poverty programs**. For the past ten years, FESP has actively supported numerous programs to help lift families out of poverty, including the Earned Income Tax Credit, CalFresh, financial education programs, early childhood education, job training, and family support. We know what works – we just need to fully fund and support those programs that have demonstrated effectiveness including but not limited to increasing CalWORKs grants, CalFresh benefits, and SSI/SSP benefits for seniors and those with disabilities. Directing resources to prevent poverty and lift families and children out of poverty provides economic gains, saves taxpayer costs, improves school readiness and improves overall health and welfare.

We applaud your effort to address poverty which is entirely preventable with adequate and appropriate commitment and investment.

Sincerely,

Sean Casey, Chair, Family Economic Security Partnership

cc: Honorable Senator Holly Mitchell
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee