



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 18 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1049 without my signature.

This bill exempts the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) from federal sponsor-deeming rules and exemptions so that a sponsor's income and resources are no longer attributed to a sponsored immigrant applicant.

I applaud the author's commitment to removing barriers for individuals seeking access to food assistance. Unfortunately, the changes proposed by this bill would create a significant inconsistency between the federally funded CalFresh program and the state-funded CFAP program. Both programs utilize the same application and follow the same sponsor deeming requirements. I am reluctant to fundamentally alter rules that could lead to apparent discrepancies that could be weaponized by the current federal administration. We have already witnessed their limitless cruelty in denying millions of American families food assistance with little to no regard.

There are existing exemptions to sponsor deeming that are aligned with the intent of this bill. I am directing the Department of Social Services to continue to work with counties and trusted community messengers to support awareness of these exemptions, alongside other efforts to connect Californians to food benefits.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom