

SB 1054

Better Data, Better Coverage, Better California Act

SB 1054 is authored by Senator Christopher Cabaldon and co-sponsored by the California EDGE Coalition, in partnership with California Competes, and UNITE-LA.

US Congress's H.R. 1 expanded federal work requirements for Medi-Cal and CalFresh, with the Medi-Cal requirement alone estimated to apply to about **3.5 million Californians**. But California's current wage data does not include **hours worked or occupation**, making verification harder for workers, counties, and the state. **SB 1054** fills that gap by adding hours worked and occupation data to California's existing wage reporting system, giving the state stronger infrastructure to support benefits verification, protect workers, and better understand workforce outcomes.

THE FEDERAL PROBLEM

H.R. 1 Work Requirements Leave Workers Exposed

Many adults must now verify 20 hours per week for CalFresh, and beginning in 2027, 80 hours per month for Medi-Cal. Without streamlined verification, up to **660,000 Californians could be at risk of losing food assistance** because of red tape alone.

THE CALIFORNIA SOLUTION

SB 1054 Builds the Verification Infrastructure

SB 1054 would require employers to report hours worked and occupation data through California's existing wage reporting system. The Employment Development Department (EDD) would share this data with the state agencies that oversee Medi-Cal and CalFresh to support verification, help protect eligible workers from losing critical benefits, and streamline administrative processes for workers, counties, and state agencies.

WHY SB 1054 MATTERS FOR WORKERS, FAMILIES & ECONOMIC MOBILITY

1

Strengthen the Social Safety Net

Health coverage and food security aren't luxuries; they're what make work and education possible - a social determinant of work. Streamlined verification means workers won't lose Medi-Cal or CalFresh due to paperwork failures alone.

2

Enable Cross-System Data for Equity

Better workforce and education data alignment allows California to track outcomes, evaluate job training programs, and advance economic mobility for those who need it most.

3

Reduce Administrative Friction

By streamlined compliance at the employer payroll level, this bill cuts red tape for counties, workers, and students navigating new federal work requirements, making the system work smarter.