

SB 1329 (Alquist) Healthy Foods Access Act of 2006



Problem

As noted in a recent case study from the National Governors' Association, residents of low income communities often do not have easy access to grocery stores to buy fresh nutritious food.

- One study found that middle and upper income communities in Los Angeles County had 2.3 times more many supermarkets per capita than low-income communities.
- Urban supermarket development costs are on average 30% higher than in the suburbs.
- A diet poor in fruits and vegetables is a risk factor for heart disease, cancer and other illnesses that disproportionately affect minorities.
- Recent research found that white Americans' fruit and vegetable consumption increased by 11% for each additional supermarket in the neighborhood (African American consumption increased by 32%).

Solution

SB 1329 is intended to create a statewide development program that specifically targets underserved urban and rural areas of California.

Grocery stores, including large chains, independent grocers, small markets, ethnic grocers, and farmers markets would be eligible for planning grants, direct loans and loan guarantees.

- Planning grants could cover costs associated with pre-development activities and feasibility studies.
- Loans would be available for land and building acquisition, construction, machinery and equipment purchases and working capital.

Sponsors

California Center for Public Health Advocacy
PolicyLink
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network