

Western Center's 2014 Sponsored Legislation 10 March 2014

Western Center on Law & Poverty is sponsoring the following bills in the California Legislature to help secure housing, healthcare and a strong safety net for low-income Californians. In addition to these sponsored bills, we are advocating for safety net and housing funding in the state budget, supporting legislation helping low-income Californians and opposing legislation which harms them or increases poverty.

Housing

[AB 2026](#) (Stone) would enhance current requirements prohibiting mobilehome parks from imposing arbitrary conditions on persons seeking to purchase a mobilehome from park residents. Co-sponsored with CRLA Foundation and GSMOL.

[SB 750](#) (Wolk) would establish comprehensive protections for tenants in apartments whose water is "submetered" - i.e., the landlord and not the utility charges tenants for water use, based on the landlord's own meters. Co-sponsored with the National Resources Defense Council.

[SB 1260](#) (DeSaulnier) would impose the same general requirements to preserve and create affordable housing that were applicable to redevelopment agencies on any other infrastructure or development districts that use property tax to finance the infrastructure or development. Co-sponsored with CRLA Foundation.

Health

[AB 617](#) (Nazarian) would set requirements for notices and appeals processes for eligibility issues with Medi-Cal, Covered CA and AIM (Access for Infants and Mothers).

[AB 2025](#) (Dickinson) would increase income limit for the Medi-Cal Aged and Disabled program to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level - consistent with the Medi-Cal income level for other adults.

[SB 1002](#) (de León) would align Medi-Cal redetermination with the CalFresh certification period when a CalFresh application or recertification application is submitted.

[SB 1124](#) (Hernández) would the limit Medi-Cal estate recovery to long term care costs. Co-sponsored with California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform.

[SB 1276](#) (Hernández) would establish a "reasonable payment plan" at 5% of monthly income for health care consumers who receive a hospital bill. This bill would also make it easier for a consumer to qualify for discounted care if they have high out-of-pocket costs.

Human Services & Access to Justice

[SB 899](#) (Mitchell) would repeal the Maximum Family Grant rule of the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program. Co-sponsored with the East Bay Community Law Center, County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA), American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) – CA, Access Women’s Health Justice, and California Latinas for Reproductive Justice.

[SB 1029](#) (Hancock) would allow individuals previously convicted of a drug felony who meet other eligibility rules and are complying with the conditions of probation or parole or have successfully completed their probation or parole to be eligible for CalFresh and CalWORKs. Co-sponsored with CWDA.

[AB 1930](#) (Skinner), the Hunger Free Education Act, would reduce barriers to achieving academic success and social mobility for low-income college students and draw down federal food assistance funding by establishing procedures for determining whether they qualify for exemptions to the CalFresh work requirement. Co-Sponsored with the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations (CCWRO).

[AB 2724](#) (Bradford) would require that courts exercise their authority to waive or reduce traffic fines and civil assessments for persons on public assistance and require the courts to revoke suspensions of driver licenses when a payment plan is agreed upon.

[AB 264](#) (Maienschein) would remove the requirement that the once-in-a-lifetime, sixteen days of CalWORKs temporary homeless assistance must be used in consecutive days.

[AB 1502](#) (Mullin), the CalWORKs Family Unity Act of 2014, would end penalties in the CalWORKs program for two-parent households and clarify exceptions to the CalWORKs work requirement for relative caregivers. Co-sponsored with CCWRO.

[AB 1579](#) (Stone) would allow for a pregnant woman (with no other children in the household) to become eligible for CalWORKs upon verification of the pregnancy rather than making her wait until the 3rd trimester. This bill is supported by the Women’s Foundation of California Women’s Policy Institute Domestic Violence Team.

[AB 1613](#) (Stone) would increase the threshold for overpayments collected through CalWORKs when caused by administrative error, requiring the Department to set a cost-effective limit for overpayments. Co-sponsored with the CWDA.

[AB 1614](#) (Stone) would establish protocols to protect and empower low-income consumers who receive their benefits through the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system. It would also establish a fund for deposit of any revenues generated by fines or penalties paid by the EBT vendor and require that fund shall be used to be used to improve consumer protections in the EBT system. Co-sponsored with the Community Investment Coalition.

[AB 1653](#) (Garcia) would strengthen safety net support for domestic violence victims who seek help through CalWORKs and limit the circumstances under which a household can receive retroactive aid as a result of a delayed domestic violence waiver. Co-sponsored with CCWRO.

[AB 1654](#) (Bonilla) would increase the threshold for the child support passed through to children who receive CalWORKs basic needs assistance.

[AB 2252](#) (Speaker Pérez) would establish protocols for informing CalWORKs recipients of their options for deposit of their benefits and ensure that future contracts maintain one free withdrawal and a free hotline service. Co-sponsored with the National Consumer Law Center.

[AB 2382](#) (Bradford) would end the CalWORKs penalty for poor school children and their families for poor attendance, which is duplicative of newly enacted Education Code penalties which apply to families. Co-sponsored with the Children's Defense Fund of California and 9-to-5 National Association of Working Women, California Branch.

Contact Our Sacramento Advocates: For more information about Western Center or our advocacy priorities, go to www.wclp.org.

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