

**Human Services and Access to Jobs & Justice Legislation
September 30, 2016**

Today is the deadline for the Governor to sign or veto legislation that was passed during the 2016 legislative session. Below is a list of Human Services and Access to Jobs & Justice legislation Western Center is tracking and the final outcome of these bills. All bills that were not referred to the floor of their second house have been removed from this list. Jessica Bartholow and Mike Herald are Western Center's legislative advocates working on these issues.

CalFresh, Emergency Food, Food System and School Meal Legislation

[SB 1232 \(Leno\)](#) would simplify and improve transparency in the verification of the of work by requiring counties, when they chose to use electronic employment databases, to use the verification of earned income in way that is both transparent & helpful to low-income workers applying for help. This bill is sponsored by Western Center.

Location: *Signed!* **Position:** Sponsor & Support

[SB 1339 \(Monning\)](#) would improve processing of inter-county transfers for people who receive CalFresh, CalWORKs and Medi-Cal. This bill is co-sponsored by the County Welfare Director Association of California (CWDA) and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organization.

Location: *Signed!* **Position:** Sponsor & Support

[1066 \(Gonzalez\)](#) would phase in a removal of the overtime exemption for farmworkers so they shall be paid overtime pay after an 8-hour workday or 40-hour workweek.

Location: *Signed!* **Position:** Support

[AB 1577 \(Eggman\)](#) will expand the state's tax credit for donations of food to qualified nonprofit organizations, such as food banks. This bill is sponsored by the California Association of Food Banks.

Location: *Signed!* **Position:** Support

[AB 1567 \(Campos\)](#) would waive fees and give priority access to state funded afterschool programs for children who are homeless or members of a CalWORKs assistance unit. This bill is sponsored by the Western Center on Law and Poverty and the Children's Defense Fund.

Location: *Signed!* **Position:** Sponsor & Support

[AB 1584 \(Brown & Thurmond\)](#) would reinstate the cost-of-living adjustment for the Supplemental Security Income State Supplemental Portion (SSI/SSP) and increase grant amounts.

Location: *Vetoed!* **Position:** Sponsor & Support

[AB 1747 \(Weber\)](#) would address college student hunger by requiring all public colleges to support access to CalFresh and Cash Assistance EBT and CalFresh restaurant meal programs. This bill is co-sponsored by the UC Student Association, the Western Center on Law and Poverty, the San Diego Hunger Advocacy Network, CSU Student Association and the Young Invincibles.

Location: *Signed!* **Position:** Sponsor & Support

[AB 1770 \(Alejo\)](#) would establish that immigrants and refugees who are legally present would be eligible for CalFresh, provided they meet all other eligibility rules. It is sponsored by Western Center on Law & Poverty and the California Immigrant Policy Center.

Location: *Vetoed!* **Position:** Co- Sponsor & Support

[AB 2057](#) ([Stone](#)) establishes entitlement to CalFresh expedited services for survivors of domestic abuse and exempts them from mandatory employment and training requirements. It is sponsored by the Women's Foundation of CA, CA Partnership to End Domestic Violence and the Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: *Signed!* **Position:** Co-Sponsor & Support

Access to Jobs and Justice

[SB 3](#) ([Leno](#) & [Leyva](#)) would increase the minimum wage. This bill is co-sponsored by the Western Center on Law & Poverty, the Service Employees United International (SIEU) – California State Council, United Food and Commercial Workers – Western State's Council and the Women's Foundation of California.

Location: *Signed!* **Position:** Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 308](#) ([Wieckowski](#)) makes several changes to California bankruptcy law to prevent economic hardship following the filing, including, increase of the auto exemption and the homestead exemption.

Location: *Died on Asm Floor.* **Position:** Support

[SB 443](#) ([Mitchell](#)) would establish protections for Californians subject to asset forfeiture by ensuring that state law is not circumvented.

Location: *Signed!* **Position:** Support

[SB 654](#) ([Jackson](#)) would ensure that parents who took leave from work to care for or bond with a child new to their family would not lose their job if they worked at an employer with 20 – 50 employees. Federal law already protects workers at an employer with 50 or more employees.

Location: *Vetoed!* **Position:** Support

[SB 881](#) ([Hertzberg](#)) would require courts to exercise authority to waive or reduce traffic fines and civil assessments for persons on public assistance and to revoke suspensions of driver licenses when a payment plan is agreed upon. This bill is sponsored by Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: *Signed!* **Position:** Sponsor & Support

[SB 882](#) ([Hertzberg](#)) would establish that youth cannot be charged with a penal code violation for failing to pay a transit fare. This bill is sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund, Youth Justice Los Angeles and the Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: *Signed!* **Position:** Sponsor & Support

[SB 984](#) ([Hueso](#)) which removes the sunset placed on the Pilot Program for Increased Access to Small Dollar Loans (Pilot Program). The program has been a success, and SB 984 ensures that financially underserved Californians will continue to have access to responsible credit options.

Location: *Signed!* **Position:** Support

[SB 1015](#) ([Leyva](#)) would remove the sunset for the right of domestic workers to be paid overtime pay after an 8-hour workday or 40-hour workweek.

Location: *Signed!* **Position:** Support

[SB 1322](#) ([Mitchell](#)) would establish that sex trafficked children cannot be charged as prostitutes but, rather, should be treated as victims and offered the protection they deserve.

Location: *Signed!* **Position:** Support

[AB 908](#) ([Gomez](#)) extends the length of time that a worker can receive State Disability Insurance (SDI) and Paid Family Leave (PFL) insurance payments and increases the wage replacement in the programs to better support poorer workers who pay into the insurance.

Location: *Signed!* **Position:** Support

[AB 1840](#) ([Gipson](#)) would give priority hiring status to former foster youth and people with prior involvement in youth detention or probation for internships at state department, agencies or other entities.

Location: *Signed!* **Position:** Support

[AB 1847 \(Stone\)](#) would build upon the 2015 creation of the state California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC), for the state's poorest workers by requiring employers to notify their employees of possible eligibility for the CalEITC in order to increase the number of families who file taxes and receive their earned tax credits.

Location: *Signed!* **Position:** Support

[AB 2365 \(Gipson\)](#) would ensure that mostly low-income Californians who have defaulted on a pawn shop loan are not unfairly taxed when they seek to reacquire their seized collateral following a default.

Location: *Vetoed!* **Position:** Support

CalWORKs, Child Opportunity & Job Training and Opportunities Legislation

[SB 23 \(Mitchell\)](#) would have repealed of the Maximum Family Grant rule of the CalWORKs program enacted by the Budget Act of 2016. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, the East Bay Community Law Center, County Welfare Directors Association of CA, American Civil Liberties Union – CA, Access Women's Health Justice and CA Latinas for Reproductive Justice.

Location: *Implemented in the budget, AB 1603.* **Position:** Co-Sponsor and Support

[SB 947 \(Pan\)](#) would give flexibility to the County Human Services Agencies when determining whether or not the mandatory application interview for CalWORKs can be completed by phone.

Location: *Signed!* **Position:** Sponsor & Support

[AB 492 \(Gonzalez\)](#) would issue a \$50 voucher for every infant enrolled in child care while a parent is participating in the CalWORKs welfare-to-work program.

Location: *Vetoed!* **Position:** Support

[AB 2062 \(Lopez\)](#) would clarify that an overpayment shall not be issued in the CalWORKs program when a report was submitted and timely denial was not sent.

Location: *Signed!* **Position:** Support

[AB 2448 \(Burke\)](#) This bill would provide that if a CalWORKs recipient has not received his or her high school diploma or its equivalent, he or she may participate in a high school equivalency program instead of participating in a job search or job club and prohibit the county from requiring the recipient to participate in an assessment before the recipient may engage in a high school equivalency program in satisfaction of welfare-to-work requirements.

Location: *Vetoed!* **Position:** Support

About Western Center on Law and Poverty

Western Center on Law and Poverty leads the fight in the courts, counties, and capital to secure housing, health care and a strong safety net for low-income Californians. Learn more at: www.wclp.org For more information about how these bills will be implemented or about our legislative priorities or positions in this issue area, contact:

Mike Herald, Legislative Advocate
Email: mherald@wclp.org
Phone: (916) 282-5112

Jessica Bartholow, Legislative Advocate
Email: jbartholow@wclp.org
Phone: (916) 282-5119