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Western Center's 2016 Sponsored Legislation Final Report - October 2016

Following is a list of bills to help secure housing, healthcare, and a strong safety net for low-income Californians that were sponsored by Western Center on Law & Poverty during the 2016 legislative session and that made it to the Governor's desk. The deadline for Governor's action was September 30, 2016.

Housing

[AB 551](#) (Nazarian) takes the first steps towards establishing basic rights and responsibilities for landlords and tenants in connection with bedbug infestations in residential rental property. Co-sponsored with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation. *Signed.*

[AB 587](#) (Chau) creates a tax abatement program for those mobilehomes for which title was never properly transferred, giving homeowners a path to bringing title current without paying years of back taxes. Co-sponsored with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation Golden State Manufactured-Home Owners League. *Signed.*

[AB 2501](#) (Bloom and Low) strengthens local government compliance with State Density Bonus Law. Co-sponsored with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation. *Signed.*

[AB 2556](#) (Nazarian) clarifies the no net loss provisions of State Density Bonus Law to ensure that local governments and developers can meaningfully comply with replacement housing requirements. Co-sponsored with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation. *Signed.*

[AB 2819](#) (Chiu) amends the Code of Civil Procedure to keep court records private in eviction lawsuits unless landlords prevail within 60 days of filing or at trial after the 60-day mark. Co-sponsored with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation. *Signed.*

Health

[AB 2077](#) (Burke and Bonilla) would have required procedures for people to move between Medi-Cal and Covered California without being uninsured. *Vetoed.*

[AB 2394](#) (E. Garcia) clarifies that nonmedical transportation, including roundtrip transportation for covered Medi-Cal services, is a Medi-Cal benefit. Signed.

[SB 33](#) (Hernandez) limits Medi-Cal estate recovery to long term care costs. Co-sponsored with California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform. Implemented in the 2016 Budget Act.

[SB 1339](#) (Monning) improves processing of inter-county transfers for people who receive CalFresh, CalWORKs and Medi-Cal. Co-sponsored with United Ways of California and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organization. Signed.

CalFresh, Emergency Food and School Meals

[AB 1584](#) (Brown & Thurmond) would have reinstated the cost-of-living adjustment for the Supplemental Security Income State Supplemental Portion (SSI/SSP). Vetoed.

[AB 1567](#) (Campos) waives fees and give priority access to state funded afterschool programs for children who are homeless or are Foster Youth. It also requires afterschool programs to coordinate with federally funded school meal programs. Co-sponsored with the Children's Defense Fund and 9-to-5 Working Women's Coalition – CA. Signed.

[AB 1747](#) (Weber) addresses college student hunger by requiring all public colleges to participate in the CalFresh restaurant meal program, as appropriate, establish a fund to support collaboration between food banks and on-campus food pantries and clarifies statute to align with current practice of matching, with federal funds, program costs associated with CalFresh outreach on college campuses. Co-sponsored with the CSU Student Association, UC Student Association, the San Diego Hunger Alliance and Young Invincibles. Signed.

[AB 1770](#) (Alejo) would have established that immigrants and refugees who are legally present would be eligible for CalFresh, provided they meet all other eligibility rules. Co-sponsored with the California Immigrant Policy Center. Vetoed.

[AB 2057](#) (Stone) reduces barriers for people applying for CalFresh when fleeing domestic violence. Co-sponsored with the Women's Policy Institute and the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence. Signed.

[SB 1232](#) (Leno) simplifies and improves transparency in the verification of work by requiring counties, when they choose to use consumer credit reports, to use the verification of earned income in way that is both transparent & helpful to low-income workers applying for assistance. It also requires state and counties that use the consumer report in public benefit determination to, as required by state consumer law, notify people when the use of a report results in negative action. Signed.

Public Benefits and Access to Jobs and Justice

[SB 3](#) (Leno & Leyva) increases the minimum wage in California to \$15 an hour in 2022. The wage will increase in steps until it reaches \$15 an hour beginning with a .50 cent increase this

January. Co-sponsored with the Service Employees United International – California State Council, United Food and Commercial Workers – Western State's Council, and the Women's Foundation of California. Signed.

[SB 23](#) (Mitchell) repeals the Maximum Family Grant rule of the CalWORKs program. Co-sponsored with the East Bay Community Law Center, County Welfare Directors Association, American Civil Liberties Union, Access Women's Health Justice and California Latinas for Reproductive Justice. Implemented in the 2016 Budget Act.

[SB 881](#) (Hertzberg) requires courts to process all applications for traffic fine amnesty within 90 days of filing the application, requires courts to process amnesty applications after March 31, 2017 if filed by the deadline and insures that all payment terms agreed to prior to the end of amnesty extend past the deadline for filing applications. Signed.

[SB 882](#) (Hertzberg) establishes that youth cannot be charged with a penal code violation for failing to pay a transit fare. Co-sponsored with the Children's Defense Fund and Youth Justice Los Angeles. Signed.

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

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

Housing

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