

Human Services and Access to Jobs & Justice Legislation
April 28, 2017

Today was the legislative deadline for bills marked “fiscal” to be heard in the first house policy committee. Below is a list of Human Services and Access to Jobs & Justice legislation that we are tracking and the current location of these bills. If Western Center has taken a position, it is also listed.

CalFresh, Emergency Food, Food System and School Meal Legislation

[SB 138 \(McGuire\)](#) would require the state and all school districts to utilize Medi-Cal Direct Certification to enroll students in the federal school meal programs, and for the highest-poverty schools to offer free breakfasts and lunches to all students through a federal universal meal provision. Sponsored by California Food Policy Advocates. A sample letter of support can be found at: [SB 138 \(McGuire\) Sample Support Letter](#)

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File

Position: Support

[SB 250 \(Hertzberg\)](#) would establish state standards to prevent harmful treatment to school children when their families are unable to pay an unpaid debt to the school food services providers. Co-Sponsored by Western Center, the Children’s Defense Fund, Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and the Food Research and Action Center.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 278 \(Weiner\)](#) would require the Department of Social Services to establish a cost-effective threshold for their collection of CalFresh overissuances when they were not caused by a client’s intentional error or fraud and would require counties to report when mass overissuances were made as a result of county systems failure or negligence. Co-sponsored by Western Center and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 282 \(Weiner\)](#) would codify the CalFresh Restaurant Meal Program (RMP) for elderly, disabled or homeless recipients in state law. It would also require the Department of Social Services to seek approval for a CalFresh Employment & Training subsidized job program. Co-sponsored by Western Center on Law and Poverty, the County Welfare Department Association and the Coalition of Welfare Rights Organizations.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 557 \(Hernandez\)](#) would allow for food from a school cafeteria that has been untouched or unspoiled can be donated to a food bank or another emergency food provider.

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations, Hearing Set for May 8th, 9:30 a.m. in Room 4203

[SB 675 \(Skinner\)](#) would ensure adequate customer service for people purchasing food using Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT). This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, United Food and Commercial Workers Western State’s Council and the California Grocers Association.

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations

Position: Sponsor & Support

[SB 708 \(Skinner\)](#) would improve access for people leaving prison to CalFresh anti-hunger assistance and to Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Co-sponsored by Western Center, Root & Rebound, County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) and the Ella Baker Center and the Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership. To learn more about options for pre-enrolling people re-entering the community into public benefit programs

which will maximize their success, go to: <http://wclp.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Reducing-Hunger-Recidivism-by-Pre-Enrolling-Into-CalFresh.pdf>

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 164 \(Arambula\)](#) would establish a new chapter in Welfare and Institutions code which would provide for a state funded anti-hunger CalFresh benefit to be issued under prescribed circumstances, such as drought, disaster or in the case of federal SNAP ineligibility, and to be issued using the EBT system. Sponsored by California Food Policy Advocates. A sample letter of support can be found at: [AB 164 \(Arambula\) Sample Support Letter](#)

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Support

[AB 167 \(Lackey\)](#) would establish require the Department and County Human Services Agencies to use a blank semiannual report form as the certificate of eligibility for the purposes of CalWORKs and CalFresh. Sponsored by the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

[AB 214 \(Weber\)](#) would address college student hunger by defining terms used in the CalFresh program to determine eligibility and clarifying law concerning CalFresh Restaurant Meal Program on College Campuses. Co-Sponsored by Western Center, Young Invincibles, Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations and the CSU Student Association.

Location: Assembly Floor

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 323 \(Berman\)](#) would amend current law that requires a county to provide a written list of emergency food providers to CalFresh applicants who request it by allowing a county to, instead, provide a 211 referral. For a copy of Western Center's research on county referrals for CalFresh recipients, go to: http://wclp.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/ConnectingTheDotsToEndChildhoodHunger_WCLPSeptember2016_Final.pdf

Location: Assembly Human Services Committee, Hearing Set for May 9th at 1:30 pm, Room 437

Position: Sponsor & Support

[AB 453 \(Limón\)](#) would combat college student hunger by establishing a Hunger Free Campus designation that would encourage colleges to implement several promising practices, such as: campus food pantries, unused meal plan fund donations, and CalFresh application assistance. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center and Young Invincibles.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 607 \(Gloria\)](#) would add the Disaster CalFresh Program into statute and establish various requirements of the Department of Social Services and County Human Services Agencies to improve disaster planning and response. Co-sponsored by Western Center, the California Association of Food Banks and the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 625 \(Quirk-Silva\)](#) would require the Department of Social Services to submit a waiver to the USDA pertaining to eligibility of foster youth residing in an institutional setting.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Support

[AB 1219 \(Eggman\)](#) would clarify and strengthen the rights of people recovering food, gleaners, or food facilities to donate food without fear of civil or criminal liability relating to the donated food.

Location: Assembly Floor

Position: Support

Economic Empowerment & Access to Jobs and Justice

[SB 6 \(Hueso\)](#) This bill would improve access to qualified nonprofit legal services professionals for Californians who are detained in removal proceedings and not otherwise entitled to legal representation under an existing local, state, or federal program. In addition to appropriating money from the General Fund, the bill would help to fund these services through the establishment of the California Universal Representation Trust Fund, which could accept donations from private foundations and other philanthropic entities for the purpose of expanding the number of individuals that may be provided legal services pursuant to these provisions.

Location: Assembly Pending Referral

[SB 10 \(Hertzberg\)](#) / [AB 42 \(Bonta\)](#) would reform the money bail system, which discriminates against people who cannot afford bail, to ensure that everyone presumed innocent has the ability to secure a pre-trial release. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, the American Civil Liberties Union of California, the Anti-Recidivism Coalition, California Public Defenders Association, Californians for Safety and Justice, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Essie Justice Group, SEIU California, and the Silicon Valley De-Bug. For more about the relationship between money bail and poverty, go to:

http://wclp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Bail-Reform-and-poverty.FNL_.pdf

Join our bail reform coalition: www.bailreformca.org

Location: Senate and Assembly Committees on Appropriations

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 16 \(Wieckowski\)](#) would establish a reduced maximum amount that can be garnished of earnings when any part of the order is based on a claim for debt on a student loan that is not made, insured, or guaranteed by the United States Government pursuant to the Federal Family Education Loan Program or the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program.

Location: Assembly Pending Referral

Position: Support

[SB 185 \(Hertzberg\)](#) would prevent the automatic suspension of driver's licenses for people who are unable to pay fines or fees for minor traffic tickets and require courts to determine violators' ability to pay before setting fine amounts. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, American Civil Liberties of California, East Bay Community Law Center, and Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay.

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations, Hearing Set for May 8th at 9:30 a.m., Room 4203

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 190 \(Mitchell\)](#) and [Lara](#) would remove the law that allows probation departments to collect administrative fees from parents whose children have been placed in juvenile detention or on probation. Co-sponsored by Western Center, the East Bay Community Law Center, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights of the S.F. Bay Area, PolicyLink, Youth Justice Coalition. To learn more about these unjust juvenile fees in California, go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/JuvieFeesCA2017>

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 310 \(Atkins\)](#) would entitle currently incarcerated trans-people to the right to apply for a legal name and gender marker change on their identifying documents and to have the decision about whether or not to approve the change made by the Superior Court, rather than a warden. This bill is sponsored by the Women's Policy Institute.

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Support

[SB 491 \(Bradford\)](#) would clarify that local municipal governments can investigate and enforce employment discrimination with an MOU established with the CA Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

Location: Senate Judiciary Committee, Hearing Set for May 9th 1:30 pm, Room 112

Position: Support

[AB 5 \(Gonzalez Fletcher\)](#) would require an employer with 10 or more employees to offer additional hours of work to an existing nonexempt employee before hiring an additional employee or subcontractor.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations, Hearing set for May 3rd.

[AB 9 \(Garcia\)](#) would exempt menstrual hygiene supplies from state sales tax.

Location: Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee

[AB 10 \(Garcia\)](#) would require that school bathrooms offer an adequate supply of free menstrual hygiene supplies in school bathrooms and would require that an adequate supply of menstrual hygiene supplies are available at homeless shelters.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[AB 17 \(Holden\)](#) would create the Transit Pass Program that would fund some free transit passes for high school, community college, and University of California or California State University students.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations, Hearing Set for May 3rd, 8:30 a.m. in Room 4202

[AB 21 \(Kalra\)](#) would establish several rights to protect students at public colleges from various hardships and increasing likelihood of graduation.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

[AB 34 \(Nezarian\)](#) would establish The Children's Savings Account Program, a universal, at-birth, statewide 529 children's savings account program to ensure California's children foster a college-bound identity and practice education-related financial planning.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

[AB 43 \(Thurmond\)](#) would impose a tax on companies that profit from contracting with a state prison, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, or the Department of General Services to provide a state prison with goods and services. It would use the tax revenue to support programs and services that would reverse the cradle to prison pipeline.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations, Consent Calendar

Position: Support

[AB 60 \(Santiago\)](#) would require eligibility redetermination periods for subsidized child care to be set for not less than 12 months and limit mandatory reports during the eligibility period. The bill would also revise eligibility rules to distinguish between income to be considered for the purposes of establishing initial income eligibility and income to be used for purposes of establishing ongoing income eligibility for services under the act. Co-sponsored by Parent Voices of California and the Childcare Law Center.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[AB 75 \(Steinorth\)](#) would, for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2016, expand the earned income credit allowed by the Personal Income Tax Law by providing additional conformity with federal income tax law to include specified net earnings from self-employment in earned income, thus allowing an earned income credit for taxpayers for those earnings. This bill would additionally set the earned income tax credit adjustment factor as 85%. In order to assist and benefit a broader section of working poor Californians, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

Location: Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee

[AB 90 \(Weber\)](#) would make reforms to the development and use of a "gang database," based on the fact that these databases have been proven to be significantly flawed in their methodology, which includes naming people simply based on where they live, who is in their family and what they wear. For last year's state auditor report, go here: <https://www.revealnews.org/blog/california-state-auditor-rampant-flaws-in-gang-database/>

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[AB 204 \(Medina\)](#) would require regular review of the local appeals processes for the California Community College Board of Governor's (BoG) fee waiver for low-income students, focusing on whether students have sufficient due process to address their claims. It would also add geographic barrier as a basis for an appeal of the loss of a BoG fee waiver. Finally, it would require a local Community College Districts to regularly review whether new academic new standards have disproportionately impacted vulnerable populations and to address issues related to a disproportionate impact in their Student Equity Plans.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[AB 225 \(Caballero\)](#) would allow more working families to qualify for California Earned Income Tax Credit. The bill would open eligibility to full-time minimum wage earners and will also adjust the minimum wage increase through 2020. Monies allocated for the increased credit will directly stimulate our state's economy by allowing California families to re-invest this credit through the purchase of taxable goods and services.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

[AB 273 \(Aguiar-Curry\)](#) would improve access to child care while parents attend ESL and GED classes. This bill is sponsored by the Women's Policy Institute of the Women's Foundation.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[AB 412 \(Ting\)](#) would require the court to vacate a civil assessment imposed pursuant to specified provisions, if the defendant certifies that he or she had good cause to not appear or not pay a fine, or is unable to pay the assessment. This bill is co-sponsored by American Civil Liberties Union of California (Co-Sponsor) Western Center on Law and Poverty (Co-Sponsor)

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Sponsor & Support

[AB 503 \(Lackey\)](#) would permit a person to register their car even if they had unpaid parking tickets.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[AB 569 \(Gonzalez-Fletcher\)](#) would protect employees who work in California from workplace discrimination based on their personal reproductive health care decisions. For example, it would prohibit an employer from firing an employee for using in vitro fertilization or birth control. This bill is co-sponsored by NARAL and California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CRLJ).

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[AB 620 \(Holden\)](#) would increase access to trauma-focused programming for people in prison and help them to understand and communicate to the parole board how the trauma they experienced relates to their conviction.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations, Hearing set for May 3rd, 8:30 a.m. in Room 4203

Position: Support

[AB 784 \(Dababneh, Kalra and Gipson\)](#) would, once amended, would impose a rate cap of approximately 21% for loans \$2,500 - \$5,000. In addition, the bill would extend the California Responsible Small Dollar Loan Pilot to loans up to \$5000. The pilot program allows for higher rates but requires underwriting and includes other consumer protection requirements. It will also eliminate the pilot sunset. More about the pilot can be found here: http://www.dbo.ca.gov/Licensees/Finance_Lenders/Responsible_Small_Dollar_Loans/

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

[AB 1008 \(McCarty, Holden, Weber, Gipson, Reyes\)](#) would provide it is an unlawful practice for an employer to include on an application for employment any question that seeks disclosure of an applicant's criminal history.

Location: Assembly Labor and Employment, Hearing Set for May 3rd 1:30 pm, Room 444

Position: Support

[AB 1010 \(Ting\)](#) would maximize the CalEITC's impact in reducing poverty and increasing economic security by expanding to align with the federal EITC, including self-employed workers.

Location: Assembly Labor and Employment, Hearing Set for May 3rd 1:30 pm, Room 444

Position: Support

[AB 1106 \(Weber\)](#) would permit the Superintendent of Public Instruction to create a contracting process to permit Alternative Payment Programs (APPs) to expend their yearly allocated monies over 36 months. It would also clarify that the military base housing allowance shall not be considered income when determining eligibility for child care and early learning programs.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[AB 1109 \(Kalra\)](#) would require that would cap loans between \$2,500 and \$10,000 at 24%. This bill is sponsored by Ntl Council of La Raza (NCLR) & Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of L.A. (CHIRLA).

Location: Assembly Committee on Banking, Hearing Cancelled

Position: Support

[AB 1099 \(Gonzalez Fletcher\)](#) would require a service sector employer that accepts credit card payments to also allow for payments of tips using a credit card.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[AB 1164 \(Thurmond\)](#) provides for an emergency child care bridge program for foster children and parenting foster youth by assisting with vouchers for resource families to access child care, navigators to assist families with accessing long-term child care, and training for child care providers on how to best meet the needs of abused and neglected children.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations, Hearing Set for May 3rd, 9:00 a.m. in Room 4202

Position: Support

[AB 1469 \(Grayson\)](#) would improve access to school transportation services for low-income students, increasing their capacity to regularly participate in school and increasing the likelihood of graduation and lifelong success. Co-sponsored by Western Center, Children's Defense Fund of California and Youth Justice Coalition.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Co-sponsor and Support

CalWORKs, SSI, General Assistance and Child Support

[SB 164 \(McGuire\)](#) would give recipients of Tribal TANF the same California Community College early enrollment entitlement that CalWORKs recipients have.

Location: Passed the Senate, in Assembly Pending Referral

Position: Support

[SB 232 \(Bates\)](#) would require the State Department of Social Services to design and implement a pilot project under which monetary grants are provided to organizations operating programs that assist individuals receiving CalWORKs benefits achieve economic independence.

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[SB 360 \(Skinner\)](#) would prevent the establishment of an overpayment or overissuance when the county had in its possession information that could have prevented the overissuance or overpayment prior to its establishment. Sponsored by the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

Location: Senate Floor

[SB 380 \(Bradford\)](#) would allow, at the option of the head of household, a step-sibling not to be included in a CalWORKs assistance unit.

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations

Position: Sponsor & Support

[SB 469 \(Skinner\)](#) would end the sunset on the low-income adjustment for child support payment calculations. Co-sponsored by Western Center and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations

Position: Sponsor & Support

[SB 570 \(Newman\)](#) is a spot bill that, when amended, would clarify that income derived the Veterans Administration for disability, GI Bill or survivor benefits shall be exempt from income in CalWORKs.

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations

Position: Sponsor & Support

[AB 85 \(Rodriguez\)](#) which would require counties to exempt veterans from time limits in County General Assistance or General Relief Programs. Sponsored by the Ca. of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Support

[AB 160 \(Stone\)](#) would increase CalWORKs Earned Income Disregard and restore lifetime eligibility to 60 months. Co-sponsored by Western Center and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 210 \(Santiago\)](#) would authorize counties to establish coordinating teams for homeless adults, children and families to improve coordination between, and expedite access to, housing and supportive services.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

[AB 227 \(Mayes\)](#) would establish a grant supplement for CalWORKs recipients who achieve educational benchmarks. Co-sponsored by Western Center and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 236 \(Maienschein\)](#) This bill would make improvements to the CalWORKs Temporary Homeless Assistance Program. It is co-sponsored by Western Center, the County Welfare Directors Association and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 415 \(Chiu\)](#) would clarify that the Department of Social Services and Counties can work with a social enterprise entities in for CalFresh Employment and Training and CalWORKs subsidized jobs. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center and The Roberts Enterprise Development Fund (REDF).

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 480 \(Gonzalez Fletcher\)](#) would clarify that ancillary support for low-income parents participating in the CalWORKs welfare-to-work program includes diapers for infants and toddlers.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[AB 557 \(Rubio\)](#) would require counties to waive CalWORKs rules that were unfair to a survivor of domestic abuse or would make it more difficult for them to avoid violence. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Latinas for Reproductive Justice and In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 563 \(Arambula\)](#) would create the Center for CalFresh Employment and Training (E&T) Excellence. It would establish that someone subject to the Able-Bodied Adult without Dependents (ABAWD) 3-month time limit and related work requirement cannot also be required to work in a mandatory CalFresh E&T Program as a condition of eligibility. Finally, it clarifies that the Department of Social Services may prioritize use of federal CalFresh E&T funding to achieve equity goals and may contract directly with an E&T Provider.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Sponsor & Support

[AB 796 \(Kalra\)](#) would reinstate the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the SSI/SSP benefit (beginning January 1, 2018) and require a maximum aid payment that would increase incrementally until January 1, 2019, when it would be set at 100%. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, California Partnership and other members of the Californians for SSI Coalition.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 818 \(Burke\)](#) would entitle a CalWORKs recipient to receive an extension of the 24 month time limit if they are working toward their H.S. diploma or its equivalent or have received one through participating in their Welfare-to-Work plan. This bill is sponsored by the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA).

Location: Senate Rules Committee Pending Referral

Position: Support

[AB 910 \(Ridley-Thomas\)](#) is a spot bill related to the two-parent penalty in CalWORKs eligibility determination that impacts parents who are working. It is co-sponsored by Western Center and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 992 \(Arambula\)](#) would establish the CalWORKs Baby Wellness and Family Support Home Visiting Program, a voluntary public health home visiting program to serve pregnant women and families with infants and toddlers in order to improve the health and family outcomes of children born into deep poverty. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center and the Children's Defense Fund of California.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1101 \(Choi\)](#) is a spot bill related to CalWORKs sanctions.

Location: Did not meet legislative deadline for 2017

[AB 1604 \(Nazarian\)](#) 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 of their degree or equivalency. It is co-sponsored by Western Center and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

Location: Assembly Human Services Committee, Hearing Set for May 9th at 1:30 pm, Room 437

Position: Co-Sponsor & 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 these bills or about our legislative priorities or positions in this issue area, contact:

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