

## **Human Services and Access to Jobs & Justice Legislative Update – October 1, 2014**

September 30<sup>th</sup> was the last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before September 1st and in the Governor's possession (Art. IV, Sec. 10(b)(2)). Below is a list of Human Services and Access to Jobs and Justice Bills Western Center is following and that made it to his desk. Jessica Bartholow and Mike Herald are Western Center's legislative advocates working on these issues. If Western Center has taken a position on a bill, it is noted. The 2015-16 Regular Session will convene on December 1<sup>st</sup> (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)) and reconvenes on January 6 (JR 51(a)(1)).

### ***CalFresh and Anti-Hunger Legislation***

**SIGNED!** [SB 270 \(Padilla\)](#) would encourage shoppers across California to use reusable bags by banning the use of single-use, plastic carryout bags at checkout stands and requiring a 10-cent charge for recycled paper bags and compostable bags. It would standardize the experience for nutrition assistance program recipients by requiring an exemption to the 10-cent charge for people paying with Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card and Women, Infant & Children (WIC) vouchers.

**Position:** Support

**VETOED!** [SB 1002 \(De León\)](#) would increase opportunities for County Human Services Agencies to align certification periods for Medi-Cal when applicants and recipients for CalFresh are eligible for both programs. It is co-sponsored by Western Center and the California Food Policy Advocates.

**Position:** Co-Sponsor & Support

**SIGNED!** [AB 1930 \(Skinner\)](#) would reduce barriers to federal food assistance and academic success for low-income college students by establishing protocols for qualifying and verifying an exemption to the CalFresh student ineligibility. It co-sponsored by Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

**Position:** Sponsor & Support

**SIGNED!** [AB 2218 \(Bradford\)](#) requires public utilities to establish a rate payment assistance program for Food Banks.

**Position:** Support

**SIGNED!** [AB 2561 \(Bradford\)](#) Establishes the right for renters to grow food for personal consumption on the land of a rental property.

**Position:** Support

### ***Access to Jobs and Justice***

**SIGNED!** [SB 1010 \(Mitchell\)](#) would equalize the criminal penalties for cocaine that poor people buy (crack) and that rich people buy (powder).

**Position:** Support

**SIGNED!** [AB 1522 \(Gonzalez\)](#) would establish the right to 3 paid sick days for employees, but exempts in-home support workers from this right.

**Position:** Support

**SIGNED!** [AB 1658 \(Jones-Sawyer\)](#) would establish a protocol for assisting foster youth in protecting their consumer credit reports when a security violation has occurred.

**Position:** Support

**SIGNED!** [AB 1792 \(Gomez\)](#) would require the state to prepare an annual report to the legislature to inform them about which employers and sectors of employment are paying a wage low-enough to qualify that their employees for Medi-Cal.

**Position:** Support

**VETOED!** [AB 1866 \(Bocanegra\)](#) would require that the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CaLPADS) be changed to increase information available to policy makers about the causes and consequences of chronic absenteeism and truancy.

**Position:** Support

### ***CalWORKs & Job Training and Opportunities to Kids Legislation***

**SIGNED!** [AB 1579 \(Stone\)](#) would allow for a pregnant woman (with no other children in the household) to become eligible for CalWORKs basic needs grants upon verification that she is in her 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester of pregnancy rather than her 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester. This bill is sponsored by Western Center and supported by the Women's Foundation of California Women's Policy Institute Domestic Violence Team.

**Position:** Co-Sponsor & Support

**SIGNED!** [AB 1614 \(Stone\)](#) would protect and empower low-income consumers who receive their benefits through the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center and the California Reinvestment Coalition.

**Position:** Co-Sponsor & Support

**SIGNED!** [AB 2252 \(Speaker Emeritus Pérez\)](#) would conform federal and state law concerning protections for child support payments when deposited into an account from the State Department of Child Support Services. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center and the National Consumer Law Center. Signed by the Governor. Chapter 180, Statutes of 2014.

**Position:** Co-Sponsor & Support

**SIGNED!** [AB 2382 \(Bradford\)](#) would end the truancy double penalty for poor school children and their families. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, the Children's Defense Fund of California and 9-to-5 National Association of Working Women, California Branch.

**Position:** Co-Sponsor & Support

### ***About Western Center on Law and Poverty***

For more information about Western Center on Law and Poverty's legislative priorities or positions in the area of human services or access to jobs or justice, contact:

Mike Herald, Legislative Advocate  
Email: [mherald@wclp.org](mailto:mherald@wclp.org)

Jessica Bartholow, Legislative Advocate  
Email: [jbartholow@wclp.org](mailto:jbartholow@wclp.org)