

## Western Center's 2015 Sponsored Legislation March 10, 2015

Following is a list of bills that are being sponsored by Western Center on Law & Poverty to help secure housing, healthcare and a strong safety net for low-income Californians. This is in addition to the many bills that Western Center will support, oppose and draft amendments for.

### *Health*

[AB 763](#) (Burke) would raise the income eligibility for the Medi-Cal Aged and Disabled Program to 138% FPL (Federal Poverty Level).

[AB 1231](#) (Wood) would require Medi-Cal managed care plans to provide transportation to specialty services if not able to meet time and distance standards of 60 minutes or 30 miles.

[AB 1114](#) (Bonilla) would clarify that Medi-Cal and Covered California forms and notices must be translated into the thirteen Medi-Cal threshold languages.

[SB 33](#) (Hernández) would the limit Medi-Cal estate recovery to long term care costs. Co-sponsored with California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform.

### *Housing*

[AB 418](#) (Chiu) would make permanent the ability for survivors of domestic abuse and elder abuse to use document their abuse in order to terminate a lease. It would also limit rent responsibility for abuse survivors to 14 days after leaving. Co-Sponsored with the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence and the National Housing Law Project.

[AB 447](#) (Maienschein) would prohibit insurers from charging higher premiums to landlords who rent to tenants holding federal housing vouchers. Co-sponsored with Housing California.

[AB 551](#) (Nazarian) would establish basic notice and treatment procedures when a rental property is infested with bedbugs.

[AB 587](#) (Chau) would revise procedures to transfer titles to mobilehomes; currently many low-income households are unable to obtain legal title and registration to homes they purchased. Co-sponsored with Golden State Manufactured Housing Owners League.

[SB 477](#) (Leyva) would make mobilehome owners eligible for the newly-revived state low-income senior and disabled property tax postponement program. Co-sponsored with Golden State Manufactured Housing Owners League.

*Human Services & Access to Justice*

[AB 357](#) (Chiu & Weber) would require large employers in California's food and retail industries to give workers at least two weeks advance notice of their work schedule, pay them for work missed as a result of last-minute schedule changes and require them to provide unpaid time off for appointments required to apply for or maintain eligibility for food and basic needs assistance programs. Co-sponsored with the United Food and Commercial Workers – Western State's Council.

[AB 433](#) (Chu) would maintain a family's CalWORKs grant and waive work requirements when a child in the family dies, for the remainder of the month in which the child dies and the following 30 days.

[AB 608](#) (Gordon) would add child nutrition and feeding programs to the list of resources that must be provided to CalFresh applicants when a child is present in the home. Co-sponsored with the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo County.

[AB 702](#) (Maienschein) would remove the requirement that the once-in-a-lifetime, sixteen days of CalWORKs temporary homeless assistance must be used in consecutive days. Co-sponsored with the California Coalition of Welfare Rights Organizations.

[AB 743](#) (Eggman) would make several changes to CalWORKs to improve the program's ability to serve parents participating in educational and employment training programs. It will also exempt all GI Bill benefits from consideration in determining eligibility and benefit level in CalWORKs. Co-sponsored with the California Coalition of Welfare Rights Organizations.

[AB 891](#) (Campos) would improve the capacity of low-income students to participate in school and after-school activities, with a goal of increasing the likelihood of graduation and future success. Co-sponsored with the Children's Defense Fund of California and 9-to-5 National Association of Working Women, California Branch

[SB 3](#) (Leno & Leyva) would increase the minimum wage. Co-sponsored with the United Food and Commercial Workers – Western State's Council and the Women's Foundation of California.

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

[SB 306](#) (Hertzberg) would require the state to maximize federally-funded food aid when unemployment is high and require counties to guarantee placement in employment and training programs when work is unavailable. It would also require that, during a federally declared recession, months on aid should not be counted toward the 48-month lifetime limit in CalWORKs. Co-sponsored with the California Coalition of Welfare Rights Organizations.

[SB 312](#) (Pan) would give flexibility to county human services agencies when determining whether or not the mandatory application interview for CalWORKs can be completed by phone. Co-sponsored with the California Coalition of Welfare Rights Organizations.

[SB 405](#) (Hertzberg) 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.

[SB 408](#) (Liu), the Right to Rest Act, would establish the right of all people to rest, share food and practice religion in public space, provided that they are breaking no other law. Co-sponsored with the Western Regional Advocacy Project, the East Bay Community Law Project and Jericho: A Voice for Justice.

[SB 521](#) (Liu) would improve access to CalFresh Employment & Training support services for college students, CalWORKs timed-out parents and people who are re-entering the community after serving time in prison or jail. It would also clarify rules for restoring CalFresh benefits after a CalWORKs parent has been sanctioned due to failure to comply with their welfare-to-work plan. Co-sponsored with the Women's Foundation of California.

[SB 708](#) (Mendoza) would reduce child hunger & protect the privacy of families applying for the National School Food Program (NSFP) using an online application. It would also require local education authorities that chose to use an online application to include links to online applications for Medi-Cal and CalFresh and to translated versions of the school food application made available by the USDA. Finally it would require both online and paper applications to better instruct homeless and migrant families about how to apply for food help for their children and special assistance available to them.

**Contact Our Sacramento Advocates:** For more information about Western Center and our advocacy priorities, go to [www.wclp.org](http://www.wclp.org).

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