

Western Center's 2015 Sponsored Legislation October 13, 2015

Following is a list of bills 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 support, oppose and draft amendments for and to sponsored bills that did not make it out of their house of origin.

Health

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

Status: 2-YEAR BILL

[AB 1231](#) (Wood) would clarify that nonmedical transportation is a Medi-Cal benefit, including roundtrip transportation for beneficiaries who must travel more than 60 minutes or 30 miles from his/her residence to access specialty care.

Status: VETOED

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

Status: 2-YEAR BILL

[SB 260](#) (Monning) would require County Organized Health Systems - a type of Medi-Cal health plan - to be licensed by the Department of Managed Health Care as other Medi-Cal plans are.

Status: 2-YEAR BILL

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.

Status: SIGNED

[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.

Status: SIGNED

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

Status: 2-YEAR BILL

[AB 587](#) (Chau) would revise procedures to transfer titles to mobile homes; 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.

Status: 2-YEAR BILL

[SB 477](#) (Leyva) would make mobile home 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.

Status: 2-YEAR BILL

Human Services & Access to Justice

[AB 357](#) (Chiu) 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.

Status: 2-YEAR BILL

[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.

Status: SIGNED

[AB 371](#) (Mullin) would end the CalWORKs child deprivation test and two-parent work penalty.

Status: VETOED

[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.

Status: 2-YEAR BILL

[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.

Status: 2-YEAR BILL

[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.

Status: 2-YEAR BILL

[SB 3](#) (Leno) 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.
Status: 2-YEAR BILL

[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.
Status: 2-YEAR BILL

[SB 306](#) (Hertzberg) would require the state to maximize federally-funded food aid when unemployment is high and requires each county to guarantee a placement in employment and training programs when work is unavailable for able-bodied adults w/out dependents subject to the three-month time limit. It also requires that, during a federally declared recession, adults should be exempt from the CalWORKs work requirement. This bill is co-sponsored with the California Coalition of Welfare Rights Organizations.
Status: 2-YEAR BILL

[SB 405](#) (Hertzberg) Prohibits traffic courts from requiring defendants to pay the full bail amount in advance of a hearing when the defendant has failed to appear or failed to pay a traffic fine. It delays by 10 days when a court may send notice to the DMV that a license is to be suspended for failure to pay or failure to appear. As an urgency measure, it takes effect immediately.
Status: SIGNED

[SB 501](#) (Wieckowski) would, commencing July 1, 2016, reduce the prohibited amount of an individual judgment debtor's weekly disposable earnings subject to levy under an earnings withholding order from exceeding the lesser of 25% of the individual's weekly disposable earnings or 50% of the amount by which the individual's disposable earnings for the week exceed 40 times the state minimum hourly wage, or applicable local minimum hourly wage, if higher, in effect at the time the earnings are payable.
Status: SIGNED

[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 their time in prison or jail. It will 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. This bill is co-sponsored with the Women's Foundation of California.
Status: 2-YEAR BILL

[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.
Status: SIGNED

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

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