

**Human Services and Access to Jobs & Justice Legislative Proposals for 2016
February 22, 2016**

Below is a list of Human Services and Access to Jobs & Justice legislation Western Center is tracking and the status of these bills. 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's noted.

CalFresh, Emergency Food and School Meal Legislation

[SB 904 \(Hertzberg\)](#) would require the state to maximize federally-funded food aid when unemployment is high and reduce harm of the CalFresh Able Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) three month time limit. This bill is sponsored by the California Coalition of Welfare Rights Organizations & Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: Referred to Committee on Human Services

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 1232 \(Leno\)](#) would simplify and improve transparency in the verification of the of work by requiring counties, when they chose to use electronic employment databases, to use the verification of earned income in way that is both transparent & helpful to low-income workers applying for help. This bill is sponsored by Western Center.

Location: Introduced

Position: Sponsor & Support

[SB 1339 \(Monning\)](#) would improve processing of inter-county transfers for people who receive CalFresh, CalWORKs and Medi-Cal. This bill is co-sponsored by the County Welfare Director Association of California (CWDA), the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organization and the Western Center on Law and Poverty.

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 608 \(Gordon\)](#) would add child nutrition and feeding programs to the list of resources that must be provided to CalFresh applicants a child in the home. This bill is co-sponsored by the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, the Western Center on Law and Poverty and the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo County.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File.

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1577 \(Eggman\)](#) will expand the state's tax credit for donations of food to qualified nonprofit organizations, such as food banks. This bill is sponsored by the California Association of Food Banks.

Location: Referred to Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation

Position: Support

[AB 1584 \(Brown & Thurmond\)](#) would reinstate the cost-of-living adjustment for the Supplemental Security Income State Supplemental Portion (SSI/SSP) and increase grant amounts.

Location: Referred to Assembly Committee on Social Services.

Position: Support

[AB 1747 \(Weber\)](#) would address college student hunger by requiring all public colleges to provide surcharge free access to EBT and to CalFresh restaurant meal programs, as appropriate. This bill is co-sponsored by the UC Student Association, the Western Center on Law and Poverty, the San Diego Hunger Alliance and the Young Invincibles.

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1770 \(Alejo\)](#) would establish that immigrants and refugees who are legally present would be eligible for CalFresh, provided they meet all other eligibility rules.

Location: Introduced

Position: Support

[AB 2054 \(Thurmond\)](#) this bill would require the California Health and Human Services Agency to design and implement the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (SEBTC) to provide nutrition assistance benefits to eligible households. This bill is sponsored by the California Food Policy Advocates.

Location: Introduced

[AB 2057 \(Stone\)](#) is a spot bill which will be amended to clarify laws concerning issuing replacement benefits for CalFresh recipients fleeing domestic violence. This bill is sponsored by the Women's Policy Institute (WPI) bill, the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence and the Western Center on Law and Poverty.

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2099 \(Stone\)](#) would establish a method to add a water supplement to the CalFresh EBT benefit for households who have. This bill is sponsored by the California Food Policy Advocates.

Location: Introduced

[AB 2151 \(Chu\)](#) would increase CalWORKs special needs food assistance from to \$20 and would establish that it be distributed as a food benefit, not cash. It would also provide that a nutritionist, nurse, health practitioner, in addition to a physician, could verify the special dietary need. This bill is sponsored by the Women's Policy Institute (WPI) bill and the Western Center on Law and Poverty.

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2768 \(Thurmond\)](#) would provide a tax credit for prepared food donations to soup kitchens and hot food providers. This bill is sponsored by the California Restaurant Association, the Western Center on Law and Poverty, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Western States Council.

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

Access to Jobs and Justice

[SB 3 \(Leno & Leyva\)](#) would increase the minimum wage. This bill is co-sponsored by the Western Center on Law & Poverty, the Service Employees United International (SIEU) – California State Council, United Food and Commercial Workers – Western State's Council and the Women's Foundation of California.

Location: Hearing Postponed, Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 308 \(Wieckowski\)](#) makes several changes to California bankruptcy law to prevent economic hardship following the filing, including, increase of the auto exemption and the homestead exemption.

Location: Assembly Floor

Position: Support

[SB 443 \(Mitchell\)](#) would establish protections for Californians subject to asset forfeiture by ensuring that state law is not circumvented.

Location: Assembly Floor Inactive File. Eligible for a vote in 2016.

Position: Support

[SB 876 \(Liu\)](#), the Right to Rest Act, would make it illegal to discriminate against people based on their homelessness status. This bill is co-sponsored by the Western Regional Advocacy Project, the Western Center on Law and Poverty, the Lawyers Committee of the SF Bay Area and Jericho: A Voice for Justice.

Location: Referred to Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 878 \(Leyva\)](#) would establish statewide labor standards that guarantee workers the right to fair work schedules, including advance notice of schedules, compensation for last-minute changes, access to full-time hours, ability to request scheduling changes without fear of retaliation. This bill is sponsored by the California Labor Federation, the UFCW Western States Council and the Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[SB 881 \(Hertzberg\)](#) would require courts to exercise authority to waive or reduce traffic fines and civil assessments for persons on public assistance and to revoke suspensions of driver licenses when a payment plan is agreed upon. This bill is sponsored by Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: Referred to Public Safety

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 882 \(Hertzberg\)](#) would establish that youth cannot be charged with a penal code violation for failing to pay a transit fare. This bill is sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund, Youth Justice Los Angeles and the Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: Referred to Senate Committee on Public Safety.

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 941 \(Mitchell\)](#) would repeal Welfare and Institutions Code allowing probation departments to collect administrative fees from parents whose children have been placed in juvenile detention or on probation. This bill is co-sponsored by the East Bay Community Law Center, Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights of the SF Bay Area, Youth Justice Coalition and Western Center on Law and Poverty.

Location: Referred to Senate Committee on Public Safety

Position: Co-Sponsor and Support

[AB 908 \(Gomez\)](#) extends the length of time that a worker can receive State Disability Insurance (SDI) and Paid Family Leave (PFL) insurance payments and increases the wage replacement in the programs to better support poorer workers who pay into the insurance.

Location: **Location:** Assembly Floor on concurrence.

Position: Support

[AB 1572 \(Campos\)](#) would improve the capacity of low-income students to participate regularly in school and after-school activities, whereby increasing the likelihood of graduation and future success. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, the Children's Defense Fund of California, 9-to-5 National Association of Working Women, California Branch and the Youth Justice Coalition.

Location: Referred to Assembly Committee on Education

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2150 \(Santiago\)](#) would implement the national Child Care Block Grant by establishing 12 month certification periods. This bill is sponsored by Parent Voices.

Location: Introduced

CalWORKs, Child Opportunity & Job Training and Opportunities Legislation

[SB 23 \(Mitchell\)](#) would repeal the unjust Maximum Family Grant rule of the CalWORKs program. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, the East Bay Community Law Center, County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA), American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) – CA, Access Women's Health Justice and California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ).

Location: Assembly Floor w/ bi-partisan committee votes. Eligible for a vote in 2016.

Position: Co-Sponsor and Support

[SB 910 \(Berryhill\)](#) this bill is a spot bill related to CalWORKs.

Location: Introduced

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

Location: Referred to Senate Committee on Human Services

Position: Co-Sponsor and Support

[SB 1373 \(Stone\)](#) would establish a standardized transportation subsidy for CalWORKs recipients participation in welfare-to-work and a standard school supply subsidy for participants attending post-secondary education.

Location: Introduced

[AB 492 \(Gonzalez\)](#) would issue a \$50 voucher for every infant enrolled in child care while a parent is participating in the CalWORKs welfare-to-work program.

Location: Referred to the Senate.

Position: Support

[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. This bill is co-sponsored by CA Coalition of Welfare Rights Organizations & Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1567 \(Campos\)](#) would waive fees and give priority access to state funded afterschool programs for children who are homeless or members of a CalWORKs assistance unit. This bill is sponsored by the Western Center on Law and Poverty and the Children's Defense Fund.

Location: Referred to Assembly Committee on Education

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1742 \(Stone\)](#) would improve the work support benefits of the CalWORKs program by allowing parents meeting the federal work requirement to participate in the program for the full amount allowed under federal law and by increasing the program's Earned Income Disregard (EID). This bill is sponsored by the Western Center on Law and Poverty and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1790 \(Weber\)](#) would ensure that anyone meeting federal work participation rates would not be sanctioned in the CalWORKs program. This bill is sponsored by the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations and the Western Center on Law and Poverty. .

Location: Introduced

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1809 \(Lopez\)](#) would eliminate the CalWORKs Asset Test. This bill is sponsored by EARN and the Western Center on Law and Poverty.

Location: Introduced.

Position: Co-Sponsor & support

[AB 1994 \(Lopez\)](#) would extend the CalLearn Program to adults who haven't received a High School Degree or completed their GED. This bill is sponsored by the Coalition for California Welfare Rights Organizations.

Location: Introduced.

Position: Support

[AB 2058 \(Mayes\)](#) this bill would create the CalWORKs Educational Opportunity and Attainment Program to provide recipients with an education bonus, in an unspecified amount, each month after the attainment of a high school diploma or its equivalent, an associate's degree, or a bachelor's degree, if the diploma or degree was earned while the recipient was receiving CalWORKs assistance.

Location: Introduced.

[AB 2063 \(Lopez\)](#) would extend clarify that an overpayment shall not be issued in the CalWORKs program when a report was submitted and timely denial was not sent.

Location: Introduced.

[AB 2448 \(Burke\)](#) 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 may engage in a high school equivalency program in satisfaction of welfare-to-work requirements.

Location: Introduced

[AB 2608 \(Chu\)](#) this bill is a spot bill related to CalWORKs.

Location: Introduced

[AB 2631 \(Santiago\)](#) this bill would increase the duration of homeless assistance benefits to 30 days and would delete the limitation on the number of times a recipient may receive homeless assistance or permanent housing assistance benefits.

Location: Introduced

Position: Support

About Western Center on Law and Poverty

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