

Human Services and Access to Jobs & Justice Legislation

May 13, 2016

Below is a list of Human Services and Access to Jobs & Justice legislation Western Center is tracking and the Location 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 Suspense File, Senate Committee on Appropriations.

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: Referred to Suspense File, Senate Committee on Appropriations.

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) and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organization.

Location: Referred to Suspense File, Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Position: 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 the Suspense Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

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 the Suspense File of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

Position: Sponsor & 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: Referred to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations. Hearing set for May 18th.

Position: 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: Referred to the Suspense File of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

Position: Sponsor & 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 and more information can be found at: <http://cfpa.net/ab2054>

Location: Referred to the Suspense File in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

Position: Support

[AB 2057 \(Stone\)](#) establishes entitlement to CalFresh expedited services for survivors of domestic abuse and exempts them from mandatory employment and training requirements. It also adds domestic violence shelters to the list of locations where the County Human Services Agency must distributed CalFresh Materials. This bill is sponsored by the Women's Foundation of CA, Women's Policy Institute (WPI), CA Partnership to End Domestic Violence and the Western Center on Law and Poverty.

Location: Referred to the Referred to the Suspense File in Committee on Appropriations.

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 and more information can be found at: <http://cfpa.net/ab2099>

Location: Referred to Referred to the Suspense File in the Committee on Appropriations.

Position: Support

[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: Referred to the Referred to the Suspense File Committee on Appropriations.

Position: 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: Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

Position: 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: Signed.

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. Inactive File.

Position: Support

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

Location: Reconsideration granted. Inactive file.

Position: Support

[SB 876 \(Liu\)](#) would make it illegal to pass or enforce laws that limit rest, sharing of food or practicing religion in public space if they are not enforced equally regardless of homeless status. We co-sponsored this bill with the Western Regional Advocacy Project, the Lawyers Committee of the SF Bay Area and Jericho: A Voice for Justice.

Location: Failed in Senate Housing and Transportation Committee on March 29th.

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[SB 878 \(Leyva\)](#) would establish statewide labor standards establishing 1 week advance notice of a 21 –day work week and pay for ‘last-minute’ changes to a schedule. This bill is sponsored by the California Labor Federation and the UFCW Western States Council.

Location: Referred to the Suspense File on Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Position: 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 the Suspense File of the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Position: 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 the Suspense File of the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Position: 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 the Senate Committee on Appropriations. Hearing set for May 16th.

Position: Sponsor & Support

[SB 984 \(Hueso\)](#) which removes the sunset placed on the Pilot Program for Increased Access to Small Dollar Loans (Pilot Program). The program has been a success, and SB 984 ensures that financially underserved Californians will continue to have access to responsible credit options.

Location: Referred to the Suspense File of the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Position: Support

[SB 1015 \(Leyva\)](#) would remove the sunset for the right of domestic workers to be paid overtime pay after an 8-hour workday or 40-hour workweek.

Location: Assembly Labor and Employment Committee

Position: 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: Signed.

Position: Support

[AB 1572 \(Campos\)](#) would establish transportation entitlement to children in Title 1 recipient schools. 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 the Assembly Suspense File of the Committee on Appropriations.

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1840 \(Gipson\)](#) would give priority hiring status to former foster youth and people with prior involvement in youth detention or probation for internships at state department, agencies or other entities.

Location: Assembly Floor.

Position: 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: Referred to the Suspense File of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

Position: Support

[AB 2405 \(Gatto\)](#) would establish 3 paid days for parents and caregivers to participate in school activities or volunteer in their child's school.

Location: Referred to the Suspense File of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

Position: Support

[AB 2757 \(Gonzalez\)](#) would phase in a removal of the overtime exemption for farmworkers so they shall be paid overtime pay after an 8-hour workday or 40-hour workweek.

Location: Referred to the Suspense File of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

Position: Support

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 CA, American Civil Liberties Union – CA, Access Women's Health Justice and CA Latinas for Reproductive Justice.

Location: Assembly Floor – Inactive File.

Position: Co-Sponsor and Support

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

Location: Senate Com. On RLS.

[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 the Suspense File of the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Position: Sponsor & 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: Referred to the Suspense File of the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Position: Support

[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 Assembly Appropriations Committee

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: Last location Senate Appropriations

Position: 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 the Suspense File of the Committee on Appropriations.

Position: 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: Referred to the Suspense File of the Committee on Appropriations.

Position: 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: Referred to the Suspense File of the Committee on Appropriations.

Position: 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: Referred to the Suspense File of the Committee on Appropriations.

Position: 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: Referred to the Suspense File of the Committee on Appropriations.

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: Referred to the Suspense File of the Committee on Appropriations.

Position: Support

[AB 2062 \(Lopez\)](#) would clarify that an overpayment shall not be issued in the CalWORKs program when a report was submitted and timely denial was not sent.

Location: Referred to the Suspense File of the Committee on Appropriations.

Position: Support

[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: Assembly Consent Calendar

Position: Support

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

Location: Read first time.

[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: Referred to the Suspense File of the Committee on Appropriations.

Position: Sponsor & Support

About Western Center on Law and Poverty

For more information about our legislative priorities or positions in this issue area:

Mike Herald, Policy Advocate

Email: mherald@wclp.org

Phone: (916) 282-5112

Jessica Bartholow, Policy Advocate

Email: jbartholow@wclp.org

Phone: (916) 282-5119