

Human Services and Access to Jobs & Justice Legislation

August 18, 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. All bills that failed in the first house have been removed.

CalFresh, Emergency Food and School Meal Legislation

[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: Passed unanimously from Assembly & the Senate – *Engrossing & Enrolling.*

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: Assembly Floor Third Reading.

Position: Sponsor & Support

[AB 608 \(Gordon\)](#) would add child nutrition and feeding programs to the list of resources that must be provided to CalFresh applicants with a child 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.

Location: Held in Senate Appropriations.

Position: Sponsor & Support

[1066 \(Gonzalez\)](#) 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: Senate Floor – Third Reading.

Position: 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: Senate Floor – Third Reading.

Position: 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: Senate Floor – Third Reading

Position: Sponsor & 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: *Engrossing & Enrolling.*

Position: Sponsor & Support

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

Location: Assembly Floor for Concurrence.

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: Assembly Floor for Concurrence.

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: Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File.

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: Senate Floor – Third Reading.

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: Held on the Senate Appropriations Suspense File.

Position: 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 –Reconsideration.

Position: Support

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

Location: Senate Floor for Concurrence.

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: Assembly Floor – Third Reading.

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: *Governor’s Desk.*

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: Senate for Concurrence.

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: Senate for Concurrence.

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 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 for Concurrence.

Position: Support

[AB 1847 \(Stone\)](#) would build upon the 2015 creation of the state California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC), for the state’s poorest workers by requiring employers to notify their employees of possible eligibility for the CalEITC in order to increase the number of families who file taxes and receive their earned tax credits.

Location: *Governor’s Desk.*

Position: Support

[AB 2150 \(Santiago\)](#) would guarantee 12 months of continuous child care assistance, increase income eligibility thresholds, and eliminate most interim reporting requirements. This bill is sponsored by Parent Voices and Child Care Law Center.

Location: Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File.

Position: Support

[AB 2365 \(Gipson\)](#) would ensure that mostly low-income Californians who have defaulted on a pawn shop loan are not unfairly taxed when they seek to reacquire their seized collateral following a default.

Location: *Governor’s Desk.*

Position: Support

CalWORKs, Child Opportunity & Job Training and Opportunities Legislation

[SB 23 \(Mitchell\)](#) will be amended on the floor to require the Department of Social Services to report on the implementation of the repeal of the Maximum Family Grant rule of the CalWORKs program enacted by the Budget Act of 2016. 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

Position: Co-Sponsor and Support

[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 Assembly Floor. Amended. Third Reading.

Position: Sponsor & 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: Assembly Floor for Concurrence.

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: Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File.

Position: Sponsor & Support

[AB 1742 \(Stone\)](#) would improve the work support benefits of the CalWORKs program 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: Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File.

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: Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File.

Position: Sponsor & 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: Senate Floor – Third Reading.

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: *Engrossing & Enrolling.*

Position: Support

About Western Center on Law and Poverty

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