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Western Center's 2017 Sponsored Legislation Final Status - October 17, 2017

October 15th was the last day for the Governor to act on legislation presented to him during the 2017 legislative session. Following is a list of bills sponsored or co-sponsored by Western Center on Law & Poverty and non-sponsored bills that our advocates played a significant role in passing during the 2017-18 legislative session and their final disposition. For signed bills, the effective date is January 1, 2018 unless otherwise noted.

Housing

Signed! [AB 72](#) ([Santiago](#) and [Chiu](#)) improves enforcement of Housing Element Law by allowing the state Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to revoke housing element compliance based on a local action or a failure to act that is inconsistent with the adopted element, and provides a framework for HCD to refer violations of Housing Element Law, the Housing Accountability Act, Density Bonus Law, and other critical housing laws to the state Attorney General for possible enforcement action. Co-sponsored by Western Center, the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, and the California Housing Consortium.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 370, Statutes of 2017.

Signed! [AB 291](#) ([Chiu](#)) enacts significant protections for immigrant tenants, including prohibiting landlords from threatening to call immigration authorities and codifying an affirmative defense to evictions based on immigration status. Co-sponsored by Western Center and the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 489, Statutes of 2017.

[AB 686](#) ([Santiago](#)) would establish an obligation for California state, regional, and local governments to affirmatively further fair housing in their decisions related to housing and community development. The obligation would be modeled on, and enhance, the obligation found in the Fair Housing Act of 1968, which is under attack at the federal level. Co-sponsored by Western Center, the National Housing Law Project, and Public Advocates.

Location: Senate Transportation & Housing Committee – Two Year Bill

Signed! [AB 1397](#) ([Low](#)) ensures that local governments cannot skirt their obligation to have sufficient sites available to meet their share of the regional housing need by limiting their ability to rely on sites that are too small or too large to have a realistic capacity for multifamily housing development, sites that have been recycled across multiple Housing Elements without developing, and sites that cannot feasibly be served by utilities. Also requires rezoned sites to be developable by right only for projects in which at least 20% of units will be affordable to low-income households. Co-sponsored by Western Center, the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, and Public Advocates.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 375, Statutes of 2017.

Signed! [AB 1505](#) ([Bloom](#), [Chiu](#), and [Gloria](#)) overturn the *Palmer* decision and restore the ability of local governments to impose inclusionary requirements on rental housing. Co-sponsored with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, Housing California, and the Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 376, Statutes of 2017.

Signed! [AB 1521](#) ([Bloom](#) and [Chiu](#)) strengthens the state's Preservation Notice Law by requiring that rental housing with expiring affordability restrictions be offered for sale first to an entity that would preserve the units as affordable, requiring the state to monitor compliance with the law's provisions, providing additional notice to tenants and local governments in advance of expiration, and providing affected tenants and local governments with the right to enforce the entirety of the law. Co-sponsored by Western Center, the California Coalition for Rural Housing, the California Housing Partnership, and the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 377, Statutes of 2017.

Signed! [SB 166](#) ([Skinner](#)) amends the existing No Net Loss Zoning Law to require that when sites identified for affordable housing in a jurisdiction's housing element develop at a higher income level, the jurisdiction continues to maintain an ongoing supply of sites available to meet its unmet need for affordable housing. Co-sponsored by Western Center, the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, and Public Advocates.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 367, Statutes of 2017.

Health

Signed! [SB 575](#) ([Leyva](#)) provides low-income Californians with free access to their medical records when applying for certain public benefit programs.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 626, Statutes of 2017.

CalFresh, Emergency Food, Food System and School Meal Legislation

Signed! [SB 250](#) ([Hertzberg](#)) establishes state standards to prevent harmful treatment to school children when their parents owe unpaid school meal debt. Co-Sponsored by Western Center, the Children's Defense Fund, Coalition of Welfare Rights Organizations, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, the Food Research and Action Center and Service Employees International (SIEU-California).

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 726, Statutes of 2017.

Signed! [SB 278](#) ([Weiner](#)) allows counties to establish a cost-effective threshold for their collection of CalFresh overissuances and would require counties to report when mass overissuances were made as a result of county systems failure or negligence. Co-sponsored by Western Center and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 388, Statutes of 2017.

Signed! [SB 282](#) ([Wiener](#)) codifies the CalFresh Restaurant Meal Program (RMP) for elderly, disabled or homeless recipients in state law. It would also require the Department of Social Services to seek approval for a CalFresh Employment & Training subsidized job program. Finally, it would allow for counties to serve parents of CalWORKs aided children even if they are not residing with the child. Co-sponsored by Western Center on Law and Poverty, the County Welfare Department Association and the Coalition of Welfare Rights Organizations.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 355, Statutes of 2017.

[SB 675 \(Skinner\)](#) would add consumer protections and ensure adequate customer service for people purchasing food using Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT). Co-sponsored by Western Center on Law and Poverty, California Grocers Association, UFCW Western States Council.

Location: Senate Floor – Two Year Bill

[SB 708 \(Skinner\)](#) would improve access for people leaving prison to CalFresh anti-hunger assistance and to Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Co-sponsored by Western Center on Law and Poverty, Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership, County Welfare Department Association, Reboot & Rebound Reentry Advocates, and Ella Baker Center for Human Rights.

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee – Two Year Bill

Signed! [AB 214 \(Weber\)](#) addresses college student hunger by defining terms used in the CalFresh program to determine eligibility and clarifying law concerning CalFresh Restaurant Meal Program on College Campuses. Co-Sponsored by Western Center, Young Invincibles, the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, CSU Student Association, the UC Student Association and the Student Senate for California Community College.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 134, Statutes of 2017.

Signed! [AB 323 \(Berman\)](#) amends current law that requires a county to provide a written list of emergency food providers to CalFresh applicants who request it by allowing a county to, instead, provide a 211 referral.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 68, Statutes of 2017

Signed! [AB 415 \(Chiu\)](#) clarifies that someone who is employed through a social enterprise can continue to receive aid even after they income out for up to 12 months. It would also clarify that the Department of Social Services can directly contract with a social enterprise for CalFresh Employment and Training and that the Counties can contract with social enterprise to create subsidized jobs. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center and The Roberts Enterprise Development Fund (REDF).

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 340, Statutes of 2017.

Signed! [AB 453 \(Limón\)](#) is a spot bill that will be amended to address college student hunger. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, SWIPE to End Hunger, and Young Invincibles.

Location: Funding for Hunger Free Campuses was included in the Budget Act of 2017-18. Western Center's Budget Summary is at: http://wclp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Budget-Summary-6-22-17_Final-1.pdf

Signed! [AB 563 \(Arambula\)](#) creates the Center for CalFresh Employment and Training Excellence. It would also establish that someone subject to the Abled Bodied Adult without Dependents (ABAWD) 3-month time limit and related work requirement cannot also be required to work in a mandatory CalFresh Employment and Training Program as a condition of eligibility. Finally, it clarifies that the State Department of Social Services may prioritize use of federal CalFresh E&T funding for certain programs and clarify that it may contract directly with an E&T Provider.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 343, Statutes of 2017.

Signed! [AB 607 \(Gloria\)](#) adds the Disaster CalFresh Program into statute and establish various requirements of the Department of Social Services and County Human Services Agencies to improve disaster planning and response. Co-sponsored by Western Center, the California Association of Food Banks and the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 501, Statutes of 2017.

Economic Empowerment & Access to Jobs and Justice

[SB 10 \(Hertzberg\)](#) / [AB 42 \(Bonta\)](#) would reform the money bail system, which discriminates against people who cannot afford bail, to ensure that everyone presumed innocent has the ability to secure a pre-trial release. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, the American Civil Liberties Union of California, the Anti-Recidivism Coalition, California Public Defenders Association, Californians for Safety and Justice, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Essie Justice Group, SEIU California, and the Silicon Valley De-Bug.

Location: SB 10 in Assembly Appropriations and AB 42 on Assembly Floor – Two Year Bills

[SB 185 \(Hertzberg\)](#) would require courts to have a uniform ability to pay standard for persons owing court debt for unpaid traffic tickets. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, American Civil Liberties of California (ACLU-CA), East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) and Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay.

Location: Assembly Desk - Two year bill.

Signed! [SB 190 \(Mitchell\)](#) removes the law that allows probation departments to collect administrative fees from parents whose children have been placed in juvenile detention or on probation. Co-sponsored by Western Center, the East Bay Community Law Center, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights of the S.F Bay Area, PolicyLink, Youth Justice Coalition, Anti-Recidivism Coalition, Fathers and Families of San Joaquin County, RYSE Center, PolicyLink, Public Counsel, W. Haywood Burns Institute, Insight Cntr for Community Economic Development, Center on Juvenile & Criminal Justice.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 678, Statutes of 2017.

SB 237 (Hertzberg) would clarify that persons with a license suspension imposed before June 27, 2017, for failure to pay traffic tickets are eligible to have their driving privilege restored due to repeal of license suspension law in the state budget. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, American Civil Liberties of California (ACLU-CA), East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC), and Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay.

Location: Assembly Transportation Committee. Two year bill.

[SB 298 \(Wieckowski\)](#) would cap how much can be levied from a bank account to ensure that basic needs can be met. The bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) and the Coalition of Low-Income Consumers.

Location: Assembly Floor – Two Year Bill

Signed! [SB 614 \(Hertzberg\)](#) ensures that public transit agencies receive revenue from fare evasion tickets. Co-sponsored by the Western Center and California Transit Association.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 219, Statutes of 2017

Signed! [AB 10 \(Garcia\)](#) requires that school bathrooms offer an adequate supply of free menstrual supplies in Title 1 Schools grades 6-12.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 687, Statutes of 2017.

[AB 412 \(Ting\)](#) would require the court to vacate a civil assessment imposed pursuant to specified provisions, if the defendant certifies that he or she had good cause to not appear or not pay a fine, or is unable to pay the assessment. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, American Civil Liberties

of California (ACLU-CA), East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) and Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay.

Location: Assembly Appropriations Suspense File – Two Year Bill

Signed! [AB 503](#) ([Lackey](#)) requires local parking authorities to offer affordable payment plans to persons with unpaid parking tickets and permits a person to register their car if on a payment plan.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 741, Statutes of 2017.

[AB 1469](#) ([Grayson](#)) would improve access to school transportation services for low-income students, increasing their capacity to regularly participate in school and after-school activities, whereby increasing the likelihood of graduation and lifelong success. Co-sponsored by Western Center and the Children's Defense Fund of California.

Location: Assembly Appropriations Suspense File – Two Year Bill

[AB 1526](#) ([Kalra](#)) would reform California's statute of limitations on consumer debt so that once it is run, the debt is gone.

Location: Assembly Banking Committee – Two Year Bill

CalWORKs, SSI, General Assistance and Child Support

Signed! [SB 380](#) ([Bradford](#)) allows, at the option of the head of household, a step-sibling not to be included in a CalWORKs assistance unit.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 729, Statutes of 2017.

Signed! [SB 469](#) ([Skinner](#)) ends the sunset on the low-income adjustment COLA for child support payment calculations. Co-sponsored by Western Center and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 730, Statutes of 2017.

Signed! [SB 570](#) ([Newman](#)) clarifies that income derived the Veterans Administration for disability, GI Bill or survivor benefits will not be considered income in CalWORKs.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 463, Statutes of 2017.

[AB 160](#) ([Stone](#)) would improve the work support benefits of the CalWORKs program by increasing the program's Earned Income Disregard. Co-sponsored by Western Center and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

Location: Assembly Appropriations Suspense File – Two Year Bill

Signed! [AB 227](#) ([Mayes](#)) establishes a grant supplement for CalWORKs recipients who participate in or achieve educational benchmarks. Co-sponsored by Western Center and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

Location: Funding for CalWORKs educational incentives was included in the Budget Act of 2017-18. Western Center's Budget Summary is at: http://wclp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Budget-Summary-6-22-17_Final-1.pdf

Signed! [AB 236](#) ([Maienschein](#)) makes improvements to the CalWORKs Temporary Homeless Assistance Program. It is co-sponsored by Western Center, the County Welfare Directors Association and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 545, Statutes of 2017.

Signed! [AB 480 \(Gonzalez Fletcher\)](#) establishes diaper benefit low-income parents participating in the CalWORKs welfare-to-work program includes diapers for infants and toddlers.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 690, Statutes of 2017.

Signed! [AB 557 \(Rubio\)](#) require counties to waive CalWORKs rules that were unfair to a survivor of domestic abuse or would make it more difficult for them to avoid violence. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, and Latinas for Reproductive Justice.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 691, Statutes of 2017.

[AB 796 \(Kalra\)](#) Would reinstate the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the SSI beneficiaries and require a maximum aid payment that would increase incrementally until January 1, 2019, when it would be set at 100%. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, California Partnership and other members of the Californians for SSI Coalition.

Location: Appropriations Suspense File – Two Year Bill

Signed! [AB 910 \(Ridley-Thomas\)](#) implements the CalWORKs Family Unity Act of 2017 by removing the child deprivation rule which denies aid to families in two-parent in homes where parents who are working more than 100 hours per week. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center & Coalition of Welfare Rights Organization.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 318, Statutes of 2017.

[AB 992 \(Arambula\)](#) would establish the Baby Wellness and Family Support Home Visiting Program, a voluntary public health home visiting program to serve pregnant women and families with infants through the CalWORKs program. The purpose of this program would be to improve the health and family outcomes of children born into deep poverty and support work and educational outcomes of these families. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, the Children's Defense Fund of California and Black Women for Wellness.

Location: Senate Human Services Committee - Two Year Bill

Signed! [AB 1604 \(Nazarian\)](#) provides that if a CalWORKs recipient has not received a high school diploma or its equivalent, they may participate in a degree program before participating in a job search, job club, or assessment. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center & Coalition of Welfare Rights Organization.

Signed by the Governor, Chapter 343, Statutes of 2017.

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

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