

**Human Services and Access to Jobs & Justice Legislation
March 12, 2018**

The deadline to introduce a bill for the 2nd year of the two-year session was February 16, 2018. Below is a list of Human Services and Access to Jobs & Justice legislation that have been introduced and the current location of these bills. If Western Center has taken a position, it is also listed.

CalFresh, Emergency Food, Food System and School Meal Legislation

[SB 675 \(Skinner\)](#) would ensure adequate customer service for people purchasing food using Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT). This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, United Food and Commercial Workers Western State's Council and the California Grocers Association.

Location: Assembly Floor

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 900 \(Wiener & Arambula\)](#) would establish the California Fruit and Vegetable EBT Pilot by preparing the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system to accrue, track and issue supplemental benefits that provide CalFresh recipients a dollar-for-dollar match for the purchase of California-grown fruits and vegetables. The bill would also provide grants for local entities to test this system in communities. This bill is co-sponsored by California Food Policy Advocates and SPUR. More info and sample support letter can be found at: <https://cfpa.net/sb900>

Location: Referred to Committees on Human Services and Agriculture, Hearing Set for April 10

Position: Support

[SB 1275 \(Stern\)](#) would create the Plan Against College Hunger (PACH) to be administered by the Student Aid Commission which, once adequately funded, would be used to award a college meal plan, worth 10 meals per week, to public college and university students who are low-income. This bill is co-sponsored by the Western Center, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and Young Invincibles.

Location: Senate Education Committee – Hearing Set for April 4

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 1138 \(Skinner\)](#) is a placeholder bill relating to food served in government institutions.

Location: Introduced, pending referral from Rules Committee

Position: None

[AB 1871 \(Bonta\)](#) would ensure that low-income public charter school students are guaranteed access to a free or reduced-price school meal during the schoolday, just like all other low-income K-12 students have been since 1975. This bill is co-sponsored by the California Food Policy Advocates and Western Center. More info and a sample support letter can be found at: <https://cfpa.net/ab1871>.

Location: Assembly Education Committee – Hearing set for March 21

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1883 \(Weber\)](#) would exclude the military basic allowance for housing (BAH) for active military from being reported as income when determining eligibility for child care and early education programs and create a program to provide CalFresh benefits to low-income Military Families who are made eligible because federal Supplemental Nutrition Advocacy law and guidance requires the BAH to be counted as income.

Location: Assembly Human Services Committee – Hearing Set for March 20

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1892 \(Jones-Sawyer\)](#) would extend Transitional CalFresh (TCF) benefits to individuals transitioning from welfare to work. Currently, TCF is only offered to people transitioning from the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, but a broader group of Californians are potentially eligible for this federally funded benefit.

Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1894 \(Weber\)](#) would address college student hunger by allowing the California State University (CSU) Chancellor to apply for the CalFresh Restaurant Meal Program (RMP) on all CSU College Campuses even if the county does not participate in RMP. Co-Sponsored by Western Center, Young Invincibles, Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations and the CSU Student Association.

Location: Assembly Higher Education Committee – Hearing set for 3/13

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1952 \(Mayes\)](#) would create a process to bring together food system stakeholders to engage and collaborate at the local, regional and state levels to remove barriers to adequate, nutritious food choices and ensure that a vibrant and sustainable food system is available across all communities statewide.

Location: Assembly Human Services Committee

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2023 \(Caballero\)](#) to make the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit refundable.

Location: Committee on Revenue and Taxation – Hearing Set for March 12

Position: Support

[AB 2066 \(Stone\)](#) to ensure the CalEITC is available to every low-income working person who files taxes and meets income eligibility rules by eliminating the exclusion for young workers, seniors and immigrant families.

Location: Introduced, pending amendments & referral to committee.

Position: Support

[AB 1957 \(Berman\)](#) would modernize state laws governing communication for public social services, while ensuring the rights of applicants and recipients are protected. Specifically, this bill would define applicants' and recipients' rights to opt-in to electronic communications and to end electronic communication when they no longer want it. It would also direct counties to maximize electronic means of verifying information.

Location: Assembly Human Services Committee, Hearing Set for March 20

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2152 \(Weber\)](#) once amended, would require the Department of Social Services to define, after consulting with health professionals and other key stakeholders, the number of days that someone would experience hunger before they would be determined "unfit for work," and, therefore, exempt from the CalFresh 3 month time limit for adults deemed able-bodied pursuant to federal law and guidance.

Location: Pending Referral

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2297 \(Arambula\)](#) would significantly decrease hunger in California by: (1) Increasing the CalFresh benefit by the same amount it would have been if Congress did not end the boost to the benefits established in 2010; (2) Making changes to the CalWORKs special food benefit so that it is delivered on EBT as a food benefit (rather than a cash benefit, which makes it countable income in CalFresh); and, (3) Adding lack of fresh water and high blood levels as reasons to receive the CalWORKs special food needs supplement.

Location: Assembly Human Services Committee – Hearing set May 20

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 3033 \(Maienschein\)](#) would require the information from the California Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention System (CalHEERS) application for persons eligible for CalFresh to populate in the Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS).

Location: Introduced, pending referral from Rules Committee

Economic Empowerment & Access to Jobs and Justice

[SB 10 \(Hertzberg\)](#) 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. For more about the relationship between money bail and poverty, go to:

http://wclp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Bail-Reform-and-poverty.FNL_.pdf

Join our bail reform coalition: www.bailreformca.org

Location: Assembly Appropriations

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 298 \(Wieckowski\)](#) will cap how much can be levied from a bank account at one time to ensure that basic needs of the consumer can be met. It does not relieve the consumer of the debt. The bill is co-sponsored by Western Center and the California Low-Income Consumer Coalition.

Location: Assembly Floor – Eligible for Reconsideration

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 607 \(Skinner\)](#) would prevent suspensions for pupils through grade 12 for so-called “willful defiance,” which are known to have predominantly impacted pupils of color.

Location: Assembly Floor

Position: Support

[SB 1135 \(Bradford\)](#) would require that the CARE Utility Assistance Program be made available for people who have incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

Location: Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications

Position: Support

[SB 1190 \(Skinner\)](#) would require restitution, or victim compensation, to any survivor of state-sponsored sterilization conducted pursuant to eugenics laws that existed in the State of California between 1909 and 1979 which are known to have predominantly impacted women of color.

Location: Senate Health Committee

Position: Support

[SB 1298 \(Skinner\)](#) would reduce barriers to employment with people who have a prior conviction.

Location: Senate Public Safety

Position: Support

[SB 1294 \(Bradford\)](#) would require that prison citizen advisory committees includes a person that has been previously incarcerated in a state prison and meets other qualifications.

Location: Senate Public Safety

Position: Support

[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 American Civil Liberties Union of California and Western Center.

Location: Two Year Bill

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1974 \(Gonzalez Fletcher\)](#) would prevent children from being brought into the debt payment arrangements between a school and their parent or guardian. It does so by banning schools from taking action to collect debt against a child. It also prevents the private information of a child from being shared with a private third-party in the process of private collection of debt.

Location: Education Committee – Hearing Set for March 21

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2841 \(Gonzalez-Fletcher\)](#) would increase the amount of paid sick days available to California workers from 3 days to 5 days.

Location: Assembly Labor and Employment

Position: Support

[AB 2946 \(Kalra\)](#) would allow a person who believes he or she has been discharged or otherwise discriminated against in violation of any law under the jurisdiction of the Labor Commissioner to file a complaint with the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement within 3 years after the occurrence of the violation. Workers are currently limited to only 6 months to file a complaint.

Location: Introduced, pending referral from Rules Committee

Position: Support

[AB 2500 \(Kalra\)](#) would extend the interest rate caps currently required for loans up to \$2,500 to loans between \$2,500 - \$10,000. Currently, California law does not restrict interest rates on dollar amount consumer loans in this range and nearly 60% of these loans had APRs above 100% APR in 2016.

Location: Assembly Banking and Finance

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

CalWORKs, SSI, General Assistance and Child Support

[SB 926 \(Skinner\)](#) would prevent economic sanctions on public benefit recipients when they voluntarily quit a job if the reason that they quit a job is that they were subject to harassment, discrimination or other violation of rights established in the California Labor Code. It also requires that County Human Services Agencies provide information about labor law protections to low-income workers applying for safety net services.

Location: Referred to Committee on Human Services, Hearing Set for April 10

Position: Sponsor & Support

[SB 982 \(Mitchell\)](#) would increase the CalWORKs grant to prevent childhood deep poverty.

Location: Senate Rules Committee Pending Referral

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 1446 \(Glazier\)](#) would establish that, if a County discovers that an adult recipient of CalWORKs is meeting the federally required minimum average number of hours per week of welfare-to-work participation as required by federal law, the recipient shall be deemed to be in compliance with program requirements.

Location: Senate Committee on Human Services

Position: Support

[SB 726 \(Wiener\)](#) will be amended to make several changes to CalWORKs overpayment recovery policies.

Location: Floor of the Assembly

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 1359 \(McGuire\)](#) would make changes to CalWORKs Stage Two Child Care.

Location: Senate Education Committee – April 11

Position: None

[AB 992 \(Arambula\)](#) would establish the CalWORKs Baby Wellness and Family Support Home Visiting Program, a voluntary public health home visiting program to serve pregnant women and families with infants and toddlers in order to improve the health and family outcomes of children born into deep poverty.

Location: Senate Human Services Committee

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[SB 1428 \(McGuire\)](#) would establish that a work permit shall not be required for a minor during the regular summer vacation of the school that the minor attends, if the minor is not required by the minor's school to attend summer school during that period. It also establishes that a minor who has received a high school degree equivalent is not required to have a work permit.

Location: Senate Labor and Industrial Relations

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 1921 \(Maienschein\)](#) would remove the consecutive day requirement for temporary housing assistance and allow CalWORKs recipients to use permanent housing assistance payment towards shared housing.

Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 1676 \(Maienschein\)](#) is a placeholder bill relating to hunger and CalFresh.

Location: Introduced, pending referral from Rules Committee

Position: None

[AB 1992 \(K. Chu\)](#) would prevent harmful economic sanctions to families in the CalWORKs program and would improve access to healthcare services.

Location: Assembly Appropriations

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2313 \(Stone\)](#) would reinforce protections for low-income people who have their benefits stolen through the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system.

Location: Assembly Human Services Committee – Hearing Set for March 20

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 2326 \(Rubio\)](#) would remove the once-in-a lifetime limit for receipt of a welfare-to-work exemption for a parent or other relative who has primary responsibility caring for a child 24 months of age or under.

Location: Assembly Human Services Committee – Hearing Set for April 10

Position: Support

[AB 2637 \(O'Donnel\)](#) would establish a one-time support payment of five hundred dollars to be paid to a child in a family receiving CalWORKs who is not pregnant or parenting a child and who attains a high school diploma or its equivalent. Currently children who are parenting or pregnant and are in the CalLearn Program already receive a one-time support payment.

Location: Assembly Human Services Committee – Hearing Set for April 10

[AB 2030 \(Limón\)](#) would require the department to include a question about disability accommodation or domestic abuse status in the semi-annual report for Cal Fresh, Medi-Cal and CalWORKs and would also require that if a recipient has disclosed to the County Human Services Agency that they are a survivor of domestic abuse or have a disability for which they need accommodations, that this information is available on the front screen of the recipient's electronic case file so that it is easily available to the county caseworker.

Location: Assembly Human Services Committee – Hearing Set for March 20

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 2111 \(Quirk\)](#) This bill would allow counties to extend the 12-month exception period for an indigent exemption in the CalWORKs program as allowed in Section 1631 of Title 8 of the United States Code.

Location: Assembly Human Services Committee – Hearing Set for March 20

Position: Support if amended.

[AB 2269 \(Lackey\)](#) would increase the age that a dependent in a CalWORKs home can receive aid in CalWORKs from 19 to 22 providing that they are still attending high school or the equivalent level of vocational or technical training on a full-time basis and can reasonably be expected to complete 22nd birthday.

Location: Assembly Human Services Committee – Hearing Set for March 20

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 3082 \(Gonzalez-Fletcher\)](#) this is a placeholder bill relating to social human services.

Location: Introduced, pending referral from Rules Committee

Position: None

[AB 3200 \(Kalra, Reyes & Thurmond\)](#) would reinstate the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) beginning January 1 of the 2019 calendar year require a maximum aid payment provided to an individual or a married couple to equal 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL).

Location: Introduced, pending referral from Rules Committee

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 3224 \(Thurmond\)](#) is a placeholder bill that would, once amended, codify current federal regulation and state practice by requiring that eligibility workers in CalWORKs, CalFresh and Medi-Cal be done by someone who is a civil servant or merit employee.

Location: Introduced, pending referral from Rules Committee

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

About Western Center on Law and Poverty

Western Center on Law and Poverty leads the fight in the courts, counties, and capital to secure housing, health care and a strong safety net for low-income Californians. Learn more at: www.wclp.org For more information about these bills or about our legislative priorities or positions in this issue area, contact:

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