

**Human Services and Economic Justice
May 7, 2018**

The last day for policy committees to hear a bill in its house of origin was April 27th for fiscal bills and is May 11th for non-fiscal bills. Below is a list of Human Services and Access to Jobs & Justice legislation that are tracking are listed below. 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: 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: Senate Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Support

[SB 1275 \(Stern\)](#) would create the Plan Against College Hunger (PACH) to be administered by the Student Aid Commission which would award CalGrant eligible public college students attending half-time or more a grant worth 10 meals per week. This bill is co-sponsored by the Western Center, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and Young Invincibles.

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[SB 1138 \(Skinner\)](#) would require food provided to inmates to include the availability of plant-based meals.

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

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 Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

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 Assistance Program (SNAP) law & guidance requires the BAH to be counted as income.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

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 Floor

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 Floor Consent File

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 1952 \(Mayes\)](#) would AB 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 Committee on Appropriations

Position: Co-Sponsor & 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 Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2152 \(Weber\)](#) 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: Assembly Appropriations Committee

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 Committee on Appropriations

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: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: None

Economic 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 money bail and poverty, go to: [http://wclp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Bail-Reform-and-poverty.FNL .pdf](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 998 \(Dodd\)](#) would establish protections from water shut-off for certain vulnerable populations.

Location: Senate Committee on Environmental Quality, Hearing Set for April 18th

Position: Support

[SB 1105 \(Skinner\)](#) would allow a person who was never in the state prison system to be eligible to get traffic violations dismissed under Vehicle Code section 41500 reforms.

Location: Senate Committee Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Support

[SB 1135 \(Bradford\)](#) would require that the CARE Utility Assistance Program be made available for people who have incomes below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations Committee – Hearing Set for May 14th

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 California between 1909 and 1979.

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Support

[SB 1233 \(McGuire\)](#) would allow traffic court community service to be completed through educational programs.

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Support

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

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[SB 1392 \(Mitchell\)](#) which would repeal Penal Code 667.5(b), a sentencing enhancement that adds an additional year of incarceration for each prior prison term or qualifying county jail term.

Location: Senate Floor

Position: Support

[SB 1393 \(Mitchell\)](#) would remove the 5-year automatic sentence enhancement for people with a prior serious felony conviction, thus restoring the court's discretion in the interest of justice. Allowing judicial discretion is consistent with other sentence enhancement laws and retains existing penalties for serious crimes.

Location: Senate Floor

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: Dead pursuant to Art. IV, Sec. 10(c) of the Constitution

Position: Sponsor & Support

[AB 1974 \(Gonzalez Fletcher\)](#) would establish rules for schools when taking action to collect debt against a low-income child, including how they may work from a private, third-party debt collector.

Location: Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2138 \(Chiu & Low\)](#) Reforms rules and practices of licensing boards governed by the Department of Consumer Affairs/Business & Professions Code.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[AB 2392 \(Santiago\)](#) reduces how much tow yards can charge & makes other changes to the towing bill of rights.

Location: Assembly Floor

Position: Sponsor

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

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

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 Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[AB 2532 \(Jones-Sawyer\)](#) would reduce the number of hours of community service for traffic tickets by setting the rate for community service at twice the state minimum wage.

Location: Senate pending referral to committee

Position: Sponsor

[AB 2544 \(Lackey\)](#) would clarify that parking authorities that offer payments plans for parking tickets must offer payment plans to person who got a ticket before the passage of AB 503.

Location: Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing

Position: Sponsor & Support

[AB 2724](#) ([Eggman](#) & [Gipson](#)) would remove barriers for work for formerly incarcerated persons with unpaid criminal justice fines or penalties to get a restricted work license.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Sponsor

[AB 2876](#) ([Jones-Sawyer](#)) would clarify that the removal of a vehicle as authorized by California statute is also required to be constitutionally reasonable based on the specific situation.

Location: Senate Committee on Public Safety

Position: Sponsor

[AB 2946](#) ([Kalra](#)) would extend from 6 months to 3 years the length of time 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.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[AB 2953](#) ([Limón](#)) the Auto Title Lending Reform Act, would eliminate the practice of charging triple-digit interest rates on consumer loans that require consumers to pledge their vehicle as security on the loan.

Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File

Position: Support

Income Assistance, Work Supports & Child Support

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

Location: Assembly Committee on Human Services

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

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

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Sponsor & Support

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

Location: Senate Committee on Appropriations, Hearing Set for May 7th

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

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

Location: Senate Committee on Education, Hearing Cancelled at Request of Author

Position: None

[SB 1446](#) ([Glazer](#)) 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 Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Support

[AB 992](#) ([Arambula](#)) would establish the CalWORKs Baby Wellness and Family Support Home Visiting Program, a voluntary public health home visiting program for people who are pregnant and new parents.

Location: Senate Human Services Committee

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 1428 \(McGuire\)](#) would establish that a minor's application for a work permit shall not be denied due to low grades or poor school attendance during the regular summer vacation if the student is seeking the permit for participation in a government funded youth jobs or job training program.

Location: Assembly Pending Referral

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 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 Suspense File

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 1942 \(Santiago\)](#) would require the FTB to include in the California 540 tax form a section to apply for the state EITC so that tax preparers don't have to send in a second form.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

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

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

[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 immediately visible in the recipient's electronic case file.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

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

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Support

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

Location: Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation

Position: Support

[AB 2111 \(Quirk\)](#) 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 Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support if amended.

[AB 2269 \(Lackey\)](#) would increase the age that a dependent 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 full-time.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

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: Senate Committee on Human Services

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 Committee on Appropriations

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 Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[AB 3039 \(Holden\)](#) would reform rules related to getting clearances from the Department of Social Services (DSS) that are needed for many social worker and caregiver placements.

Location: Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Position: Support

[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: Assembly Committee on Appropriations Suspense File

Position: Co-sponsor & Support

[AB 3224 \(Thurmond\)](#) would 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: Senate Pending Referral

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:

Mike Herald, Director of Advocacy

Email: mherald@wclp.org

Phone: (916) 282-5112

Jessica Bartholow, Legislative Advocate

Email: jbartholow@wclp.org

Phone: (916) 282-5119