

Western Center's 2020 Sponsored Legislation Final Status - September 30, 2020

Following is a list of bills to help secure housing, healthcare and a strong safety net for low-income Californians that are sponsored or co-sponsored by Western Center on Law & Poverty during the 2020 legislative session. Chaptered bills were signed by the Governor and will be effective January 1, 2021 unless otherwise noted.

Health

[AB 683](#) ([Carrillo](#)) Medi-Cal: eligibility. Increasing the Non-MAGI Assets Limit. Eliminates the assets test for the Medicare Savings Programs and raises the assets limit for other Medi-Cal programs serving seniors and persons with disabilities.

Co-sponsors: Justice in Aging and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: Senate Health - DEAD.

[AB 910](#) ([Wood](#)) Medi-Cal: dispute resolution. This bill would strengthen the dispute resolution process between Medi-Cal plans and county mental health plans when there is disagreement about which plan is responsible for providing mental health services to a Medi-Cal enrollee.

Co-sponsors: National Health Law Program and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: Senate Health - DEAD.

[AB 2100](#) ([Wood](#)) Medi-Cal: pharmacy benefits. This bill would provide important consumer protections for Medi-Cal enrollees receiving prescription drugs in the fee-for-service delivery system, including access to independent medical review.

Co-sponsors: California Pharmacists Association and Western Center on Law & Poverty

Location: VETOED.

[AB 2258](#) ([Reyes](#)) Doula care: Medi-Cal pilot program. Creates a doula pilot program for Medi-Cal beneficiaries in the 14 counties with the highest maternal mortality and birth disparities.

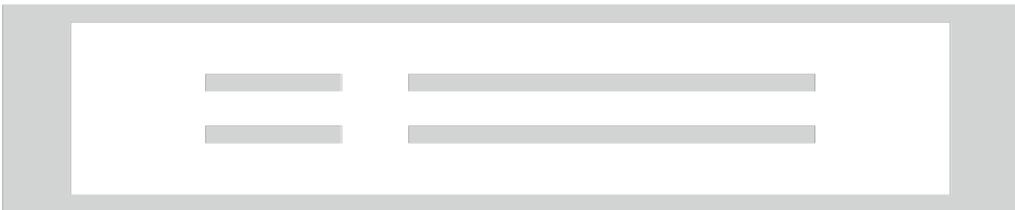
Co-sponsors: Birthing Project USA, Black Women for Wellness Action Project, National Health Law Program, North State Doula Program, South Los Angeles/South Bay African American Infant & Maternal Mortality Community Action Team, and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: Assembly Health - DEAD.

[AB 2276](#) ([Reyes](#)) Childhood lead poisoning: screening and prevention. This bill combines three lead bills, AB 2276, 2277, and 2279, and would implement the California Auditor's recommendations to increase blood lead level screenings of children in the Medi-Cal program and update the factors for evaluating risk of lead poisoning.

Co-sponsors: Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations (CCWRO), Environmental Working Group (EWG), and Western Center on Law & Poverty

Location: Chapter 216, Statutes of 2020.



[AB 2520 \(Chiu\)](#) Access to medical records. This bill would require providers to complete public benefit form, clarifies that legal aid advocates can access medical records without cost for patient regarding eligibility for public benefit program, and expands access to free medical records to include immigrants who are survivors of crime or domestic violence, Cash Assistance Program for Aged, Blind, and Disabled Legal Immigrants (CAPI), and government housing assistance programs.

Location: Chapter 101, Statutes of 2020.

[AB 2892 \(Rivas, Luz\)](#) Health care service plans: Consumer Participation Program. This bill would remove the sunset date that allows for the DMHC director to award advocacy and witness fees to any person or organization that represents the interests of consumers, and has made a substantial contribution on behalf of consumers.

Co-sponsors: Health Access and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: Assembly Health - DEAD.

[SB 361 \(Mitchell\)](#) Medi-Cal: Health Homes Program. This 2-year bill would remove restrictions around State funding and termination of Health Home Program after two years to eliminate perception that program is “pilot” and ensure chronically homeless individuals are targeted through partnership with homeless systems, enhanced outreach rate, and data collection.

Co-sponsors: Corporation for Supportive Housing, Housing California, and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: Assembly - DEAD.

[SB 936 \(Pan\)](#) Medi-Cal managed care plans: contracts. This bill would require Medi-Cal plans to procure their contracts with the state at least once every 5 years in order to ensure plan accountability, quality, and stakeholder engagement. In addition, this bill would require plans to meet certain criteria, including performance quality, network adequacy, language access, and data collection, in order to bid with the state.

Co-sponsors: California Pan-Ethnic Health Network and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

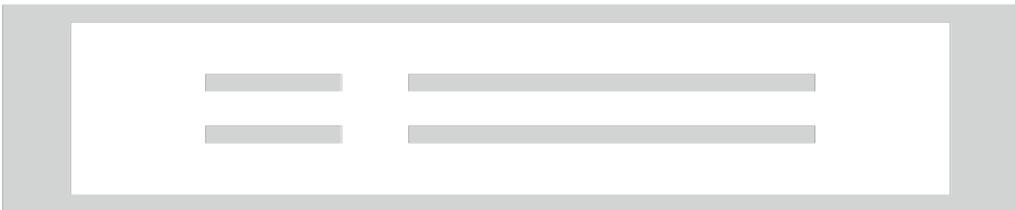
Location: Senate Health - DEAD.

[SB 1097 \(Durazo\)](#) Medical services: credit or loan. Ensures that the medical credit card protections enacted in last year's SB 639 are applied when a provider doesn't process the application themselves.

Location: Senate Business, Professions & Economic Development - DEAD.

Housing

[AB 1279 \(Bloom\)](#) Housing development in high-opportunity areas. This bill would have facilitated mixed-income and affordable housing development in high-opportunity communities through local zoning overrides and other land use incentives. It was aimed at addressing the housing shortage in a way that also addressed exclusionary zoning practices



that exacerbate racial and economic segregation and that limit choice and opportunity for low-income families.

Co-sponsors: California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, Public Advocates, and Western Center on Law and Poverty.

Location: Senate Housing – DEAD.

[AB 1436 \(Chiu\)](#) COVID-19 Eviction Protections and Mortgage Forbearance. This bill would have prohibited non-payment of rent during the COVID crisis from being the basis for an eviction. It also would have allowed certain mortgage holders with a COVID-related financial impact to request forbearance.

Co-sponsors: California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, Housing Now!, PolicyLink, Public Advocates, Public Counsel, Western Center on Law and Poverty.

Location: Senate Rules – DEAD

[AB 2058 \(Gabriel\)](#) Affordable Housing Preservation Tax Credit. This bill would have created a tax credit to incentivize the sale of mobilehome parks or multifamily housing developments with expiring affordability restrictions or with a high proportion of lower-income tenants to qualified preservation purchasers who would ensure the long-term affordability of the housing.

Co-sponsors: California Coalition for Rural Housing, California Housing Partnership Corporation, and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: Assembly – DEAD.

[AB 2763 \(Bloom\)](#) Relocation assistance. This bill would have ensured that when existing tenants are displaced as a result of a project using state low-income housing tax credits that those displaced tenants are provided relocation assistance under state law.

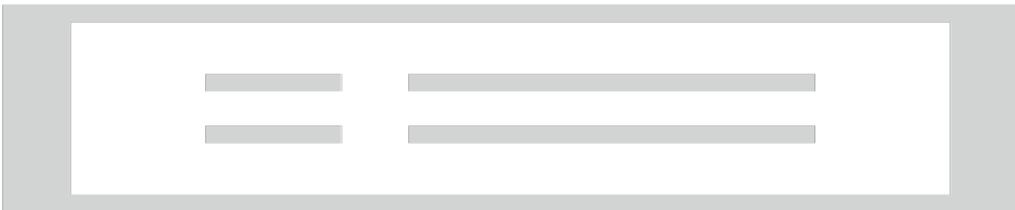
Co-sponsors: California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, National Housing Law Project, and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: Assembly Housing and Community Development – DEAD.

[AB 3088 \(Chiu\)](#) AB 1482 Clean-Up. This bill cleans up a number of confusing provisions in last year's AB 1482, which limited rent increases and required just cause for evictions for tenants in multifamily properties that are more than 15 years old. The bill was also amended during the last week of the legislative session to include a negotiated compromise around protecting tenants from eviction through January of 2021. That portion of the bill did not have any sponsors.

Co-sponsors: California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: Chapter 37, Statutes of 2020



[AB 3352 \(Friedman\)](#) State response to code enforcement complaints. This bill would have required a city or county that receives a complaint of a substandard building or a lead hazard violation from a tenant to inspect the building and provide free copies of the inspection report and citations issued. The bill was partially a response to ongoing reports of code enforcement in a number of jurisdictions around the state refusing to respond to complaints if the landlord had filed an unlawful detainer action against the tenant.

Co-sponsors: California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: Senate Housing - DEAD.

[SB 1138 \(Wiener\)](#) Housing element: emergency shelters: rezoning of sites. This bill would have changed the penalty for jurisdictions that fail to adopt a housing element that complies with state law on time. It also would have revised the requirement for all jurisdictions to have adequate zoned capacity for emergency shelters to better ensure that zoned sites are developable and can accommodate the community's need for shelter beds.

Co-sponsors: California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, Public Interest Law Project, and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: Senate - DEAD.

[SCA 1 \(Allen\)](#) Public housing projects. SCA 1 would have placed the repeal of Article 34 of the California Constitution, which requires voter approval before local governments can approve certain affordable housing developments, on the November 2020 ballot.

Co-sponsors: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, California Association of Realtors, California YIMBY, Southern California Association of Nonprofit Housing, and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: Assembly - DEAD.

Public Benefits and Access to Justice

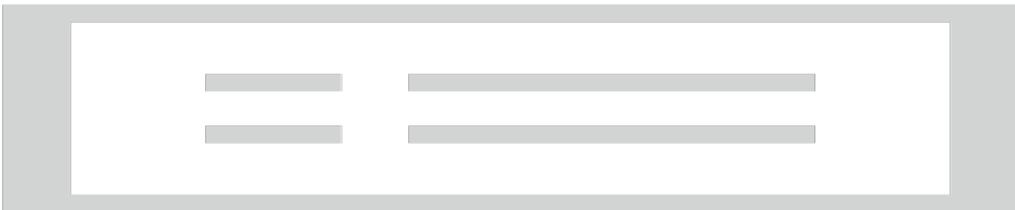
[AB 826 \(Santiago\)](#) to provide emergency food assistance for Californians who are underserved by other food assistance programs.

Co-sponsors: California Association of Food Banks, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: VETOED.

[AB 987 \(R.Rivas\)](#) would have made changes to the CalWORKs special food benefit and add lack of fresh water and high blood levels as reasons to receive the CalWORKs special food needs supplement.

Location: Senate Appropriations - DEAD.



[AB 2029](#) ([Berman](#)) would conform CalWORKs income exclusion of child support paid with the income exclusion policies of CalFresh, Medi-Cal and Child Support laws.

Location: Assembly Human Services Committee – DEAD.

[AB 2282](#) ([McCarty](#)) This bill would address and alleviate food insecurity and hunger faced by students on California’s college campuses.

Location: Senate Education – DEAD.

[AB 2325](#) ([Carrillo](#)) restores Section 4007.5 of the Family Code with a 3 year sunset. This law was allowed to sunset last year, requiring child support order suspensions to be processed manually for people who are incarcerated over 90 days, rather than have them automatically suspended.

Co-Sponsors: Center for Employment Opportunities and Western Center on Law & Poverty

Location: Chapter 217, Statutes of 2020

[AB 2415](#) ([Quirk](#)) would ban surcharges for EBT customers withdrawing cash benefits from an ATM.

Location: Assembly Human Services Committee – DEAD.

[AB 2487](#) ([Gómez Reyes](#)) California Commission on Human Rights. Would have established in state government, the California Commission on Human Rights, as an advisory commission, and would require it to, among other things identify and evaluate California’s successes and failures in protecting human rights of individuals living within the state, determine statutory, regulatory, or budgetary solutions to better protect human rights, and report, at least annually, on the status of human rights to the Legislature and the Governor with statutory and regulatory recommendations. The bill would have required the commission to consist of 17 members, including, among others, members of the Assembly and the Senate.

Location: Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review – DEAD.

[AB 2527](#) ([Nazarian](#)) would direct the Department of Education to issue guidance to schools for how to serve school breakfast program to serve younger sibling of an elementary school student and establish a state reimbursement for breakfast served to parents and guardians eating with their child.

Location: Assembly Education – DEAD.

[AB 3073](#) ([Wicks](#)) would require the Department of Social Services to issue guidance on the allowable practices to maximize CalFresh eligibility for people leaving jail or prison.

Co-sponsors: California Association of Food Banks and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: Chapter 225, Statutes of 2020.

[AB 3079](#) ([E. Garcia](#)) is a spot bill that, once amended, will take specified actions to modernize and expand the California Lifeline Program.

Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee – DEAD.



[AB 3142](#) ([Wicks](#)) would prevent the sponsors of immigrant recipients of the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) and other state public assistance programs from having to pay for benefits received by a low-income, eligible immigrant.

Location: Assembly Human Services Committee – DEAD.

[AB 3238](#) ([Smith](#)) will prevent hunger among foster youth by ensuring access to CalFresh.

Location: Assembly Appropriations – DEAD.

[AB 3314](#) ([Weber](#)) would conform state law establishing guidelines for default child support orders of the non-custodial parent as required by federal rule.

Location: Assembly Judiciary Committee – DEAD.

[SB 33](#) ([Skinner](#)) would have prevented online cash EBT purchases unless retailer has been approved by CDSS and would establish food safety requirements for online CalFresh EBT purchases.

Location: Assembly Appropriations – DEAD.

[SB 144](#) ([Mitchell](#)) / [AB 1869](#) ([Budget Committee](#)) to repeal state law authorizing specified criminal justice fees. The bill language was moved into [AB 1869](#), which repealed 23 of the criminal justice fees and expunged an estimated \$16 Billion in outstanding debt associated with these fees. [We achieved this historic, first in the country victory](#) in coordination with the [Debt Free Justice Coalition](#), that includes A New Way of Life, All of Us or None, American Civil Liberties Union, Anti-Recidivism Coalition, East Bay Community Law Center, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Homeboy Industries, Insight Center for Community Economic Development, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, PolicyLink, San Francisco Financial Justice Project, San Francisco Public Defender, Western Center on Law & Poverty, and Youth Justice Coalition.

Location: AB 1869 - Chapter 92, Statutes of 2020.

[SB 1065](#) ([Hertzberg](#)) would make specified changes to the CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program.

Co-sponsors: Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: Chapter 152, Statutes of 2020.

[SB 1290](#) ([Durazo](#) & [Mitchell](#)) would require counties to stop collecting juvenile fees assessed before 2018.

Co-sponsors: Western Center on Law and Poverty and Youth Justice Coalition.

Location: Chapter 340, Statutes of 2020



[SB 1399 \(Durazo\)](#) would have reduced poverty among low-income workers in the Garment Industry by ensuring that they are paid the minimum wages and that there are policies in place that actually work to reduce wage theft, which is highly common in the industry and for which those that profit from the theft are rarely held accountable.

Co-sponsors: Bet Tzedek Legal Services; California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO; Garment Worker Center; and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: 3rd Reading on Assembly Floor - Failed passage prior to midnight. Our coalition, led by LA's Garment Worker Center, will bring the bill back next year.

[SB 1409 \(Caballero\)](#) requires the Franchise Tax Board to analyze and develop a plan to implement a "no return" tax filing pilot program to increase the number of claims of the CalEITC (California Earned Income Tax Credit).

Co-sponsors: Economic Security Project Action, End Child Poverty in California/The GRACE Institute, Tipping Point Community, and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

Location: Chapter 114, Statutes of 2020.

[SCR 69 \(Bradford\)](#) This resolution would have expressed the Legislature's support for fair and just wages for workers who are incarcerated, working for the Prison Industry Authority, the Division of Juvenile Facilities, and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Co-sponsors: Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC); #cut50; Initiate Justice; National Employment Law Project; Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights of San Francisco; Nextgen California; Western Center on Law and Poverty; and Young Women's Freedom Center.

Location: Assembly Public Safety Committee - DEAD.

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

Health

Jen Flory

JFlory@wclp.org, 916-282-5141

Linda Nguy

LNguy@wclp.org, 916-282-5117

Housing

Mike Herald

MHerald@wclp.org, 916-282-5112

Public Benefits and Access to Justice

Jessica Bartholow

JBartholow@wclp.org, 916-282-5119

Mike Herald

MHerald@wclp.org, 916-282-5112