



Western Center's 2023 Legislative Agenda Updated September 15, 2023

Following is a list of bills to help secure housing, healthcare, and a strong safety net for low-income Californians that will be sponsored or co-sponsored by Western Center on Law & Poverty during the 2023 legislative session.

Healthcare

[AB 1085 \(Maienschein\)](#): Medi-Cal: housing support services. **Governor's Desk.**

The bill would require the Department to seek federal approval by July 2026 to make housing support services a Medi-Cal benefit for Californians experiencing homelessness. Housing support services help people access housing, remain stably housed, and are essential for individuals experiencing homelessness to access meaningful care.

(Co-sponsored with Corporation for Supportive Housing)

[Fact Sheet](#) and [Sample Letter of Support to Governor](#)

[AB 1094 \(Wicks\)](#): Consent and Reproductive Equity (CARE) for Families Act. **2-year bill.**

This bill will ensure that a pregnant or perinatal person provides informed consent prior to drug or alcohol tests or screens being conducted on them or their newborn.

(Co-Sponsored with Drug Policy Alliance, Black Women for Wellness, California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, A New Way of Life, Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers)

[AB 1157 \(Ortega and Wilson\)](#): Rehabilitative and habilitative services: durable medical equipment and services. **HELD in Appropriations committee.**

This bill would clarify that durable medical equipment is a covered essential health benefit in California-regulated health plans and policies when prescribed by a doctor for rehabilitative or habilitative purposes. The bill would also remove limitations such as annual caps on durable medical equipment coverage.

(Co-sponsored with National Health Law Program)

[Fact Sheet](#)

[SB 595 \(Roth\)](#): Minimizing gaps in health coverage. **Governor's Desk.**

This bill is follow-up legislation to ensure that last year's SB 644, which required Employment Development Department (EDD) to share information about those who applied for income-replacing benefits with Covered California to allow Covered California to outreach and help enroll these individuals in Medi-Cal or Covered California, is implemented timely.

(Co-sponsored with California Pan Ethnic Health Network and Health Access)

[Fact sheet](#) and [Sample Letter of Support to Governor](#)



Housing

[AB 653 \(Reyes\)](#): Department of Housing and Community Development. 2-year bill.

This bill would create a program to pair housing navigation, incentives, and deposit resources with housing choice voucher tenants to find and secure a unit. The bill would also require housing authorities that have low successful placement rates to work with the Department of Housing and Community Development to analyze and improve their policies.

(Co-sponsored with Housing CA, Corporation for Supportive Housing, United Ways of CA and the National Housing Law Project (NHLP))

[Fact Sheet](#)

[AB 846 \(Bonta\)](#): Low-income housing credit. 2-year bill.

This bill would limit rent increases in properties funded by the low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) program.

(Co-Sponsored with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation)

[AB 920 \(Bryan\)](#): Discrimination: housing status. HELD in Assembly Appropriations committee.

This bill would add housing status to the list of protected categories under California's anti-discrimination statute in order to prevent the routine discrimination of unhoused people by public and private entities that receive state funding.

(Co-Sponsored with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Disability Rights California (DRC), Housing California, and Public Advocates)

[Fact Sheet](#)

[AB 1082 \(Kalra\)](#): Authority to remove vehicles. 2-year bill.

This bill would prohibit towing or immobilizing a vehicle due to unpaid parking tickets, increase the number of unpaid tickets from one to eight before the DMV can place a registration hold, and improve the guidelines for parking ticket payment programs.

(Co-Sponsored with End Poverty in California (EPIC), FreeFrom, and Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights (LCCR))

[Fact Sheet](#)

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(Co-sponsored with Corporation for Supportive Housing)

[Fact sheet](#) and Sample Letter of Support to Governor

[AB 1418 \(McKinnor\): Limiting Racially Motivated Crime-Free Housing Programs and Nuisance Ordinances.](#) **Governor's Desk.**

This bill would limit local crime-free/nuisance ordinances (CFNH) housing programs and nuisance ordinances, which typically include harmful provisions such as requiring landlords to evict tenants for alleged criminal activity. Often touted as crime-fighting tools, these policies represent a new phase in the evolution of segregationist housing laws designed to exclude people of color from communities.

(Co-Sponsored with California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, Disability Rights California, National Housing Law Project, and Root & Rebound)

[Fact Sheet](#)

[ACA 10 \(Haney\): Housing is a Human Right.](#)

ACA 10 will recognize that every Californian has the fundamental human right to adequate housing on an equitable and non-discriminatory basis. Should the measure pass in the legislature, California voters will have the opportunity to vote to add this right to the state's constitution, creating an obligation on the part of state and local governments to take meaningful action to fully realize the right.

(Co-sponsored with Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) Action, End Poverty in California (EPIC), Housing Now, ACLU California Action, Abundant Housing LA, National Homelessness Law Center, and PowerCA Action)

[Fact Sheet](#)

Register support [here](#)

[SB 460 \(Wahab\): Fair Chance Housing.](#) **2-year Bill**

The bill would establish the first statewide Fair Chance Housing Ordinance (FCH), which would provide a pathway for individuals with criminal records reentering society to access, obtain, and sustain housing. This bill would prevent rental housing providers from screening for criminal history of housing applicants during the advertisement, application, selection, or eviction process, unless required by federal law.

(Co-Sponsored with All of Us or None, Just Cities, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, and Root & Rebound)

[SB 460 Fact Sheet](#)

Register Support [here](#)

[SB 567 \(Durazo\): Homelessness Prevention Act.](#) **Governor's Desk.**



This bill would close the gaps in existing law that leaves millions of California renters at risk of abuse of “no-fault” just cause eviction protections and increases enforcement mechanisms for the statewide Tenant Protection Act of 2019.

(Co-Sponsored with Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE), California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, PICO California, and Public Advocates)

Public Benefits and Access to Justice

[AB 94 \(Davies\): Administration of public social services: blocked telephone calls. HELD in Appropriations committee.](#)

This bill would prohibit county departments of social services to call recipients from a blocked phone number.

(Co-Sponsored with Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations)

[AB 274 \(Bryan\): CalWORKs: CalFresh: eligibility: income exclusions. 2-year bill](#)

This bill would exempt any grant, scholarship, loan, or fellowship as income for CalWORKs.

(Co-Sponsored with Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations)

[AB 310 \(Arambula\): CalWORKs. 2-year Bill.](#)

This bill would reimagine the CalWORKs program to be family-centered, anti-racist, and improve participant outcomes. The bill would reform the sanction policy, eliminating non-federally required sanctions and reducing welfare-to-work sanctions to 1% of the grant and sanction duration to one month, and repeal and modify antiquated, offensive (sexist, racist) statute, including deprivation rule that penalizes two-parent working families.

(Co-sponsored with Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, GRACE/End Child Poverty California, John Burton Advocates for Youth, and Parent Voices)

[AB 325 \(Reyes\): Human services: noncitizen victims. HELD in Appropriations Committee](#)

This bill would provide social services to immigrants who have applied for humanitarian relief including applicants who have applied for Asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), and survivors of domestic abuse who have applied for relief through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

(Co-Sponsored with Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations)

[AB 380 \(Arambula\): California Labor Trafficking Prevention Act. HELD in Appropriations Committee](#)



This bill would establish a Labor Trafficking unit within the Department of Industrial Relations the Division of Labor Standards.

(Co-Sponsored with Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative, Loyola Law School)

[AB 843 \(J. Carrillo\): Restoration of electronically stolen CalFresh benefits.](#) **Governor's Desk**

This bill would place into law that recipients of the CalFresh program who have been victims of electronic theft are able to have their benefits restored. Today electronic theft of public benefit programs has become rampant and lucrative for thefts as these programs lack adequate protections from these forms of theft.

(Co-Sponsor with Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations)

[Sample Letter of Support to Governor](#)

[AB 964 \(Ortega\): Prevention of human trafficking through state contracts.](#) **HELD in Appropriations committee.**

This bill would enhance prevention of human trafficking through state contracts by requiring awardees of state contracts to submit a human trafficking prevention plan.

(Co-Sponsor with the Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative, Loyola Law School)

[AB 991 \(Alvarez\): Modernizing public benefit communication.](#) **HELD in Appropriations committee.**

This bill would allow recipients of public benefit programs to provide information that has been requested by county departments of social services via email.

(Co-Sponsored with Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations)

[AB 1094 \(Wicks\): Consent and Reproductive Equity \(CARE\) for Families Act.](#) **2-year bill.**

This bill would ensure that a pregnant or perinatal person provides informed consent prior to drug or alcohol tests or screens being conducted on them or their newborn.

(Co-Sponsored with Drug Policy Alliance, Black Women for Wellness, California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, A New Way of Life, Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers)

[AB 1266 \(Kalra\): End Debtor's Prison Act.](#) **HELD In Appropriations Committee**

This bill will remove the possibility of bench warrants being issued for infractions. Today courts are able to issue bench warrants if someone fails to appear in court or doesn't pay a fine.

(Co-Sponsoring with the Debt Free Justice Coalition, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area)

[SB 36 \(Skinner\): Safe Haven for Abortion & Gender-Affirming Care Act.](#) **HELD in Appropriations committee.**



This bill would strengthen our safe haven protections by making it illegal for bail agents or bounty hunters to apprehend people in California who have left another state to avoid criminal prosecution or imprisonment related to that state's criminalization of abortion or gender-affirming care. The bill would also ensure that benefits such as CalFresh and CalWORKs would not be denied to individuals who left another state and traveled to California for purposes described above but would otherwise be eligible for such benefits.

(Co-Sponsored with Black Women for Wellness, Equality California, NARAL Pro-Choice California, Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations)

SB 491 (Durazo): Access to Mail for Unhoused Californians. HELD in Appropriations Committee

This bill would create an option for unhoused Californians to pick up government related mail from a county department of social services such as Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards, election ballots, public housing waiting list notifications, student report cards, and much more.

(Co-Sponsored with Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations)

SB 618 (Rubio): Child support: enforcement. HELD in Appropriations committee.

This bill prohibits interest from accruing on child support owed or assigned to the state or county for repayment of public assistance received, and prohibits the collection of interest that has already accrued.

(Co-Sponsored with Truth and Justice in Child Support Coalition)

SB 727 (Limón): Forgiveness of coerced debt for survivors of human trafficking. Governor's Desk

This bill would provide a pathway for survivors of human trafficking to have coerced debt forgiven that accrued during the time they were trafficked.

(Co-Sponsored with Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST), Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice)

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

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