

Human Services and Access to Jobs & Justice Legislative Update – September 2, 2014

The 2014 Legislative Session was adjourned on August 30, 2014. Below is a list of Human Services and Access to Jobs & Justice legislation Western Center is tracking and the status of these bills after today's gavel down. Jessica Bartholow and Mike Herald are Western Center's legislative advocates working on these issues. If Western Center has taken a position on a bill, it is noted.

CalFresh and Anti-Hunger Legislation

Heading to the Governor's Desk! [SB 270](#) ([Padilla](#)) would encourage shoppers across California to use reusable bags by banning the use of single-use, plastic carryout bags at checkout stands and requiring a 10-cent charge for recycled paper bags and compostable bags. It would standardize the experience for nutrition assistance program recipients by requiring an exemption to the 10-cent charge for people paying with Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card and Women, Infant & Children (WIC) vouchers.

Position: Support

Heading to the Governor's Desk! [SB 1002](#) ([de León](#)) would increase opportunities for County Human Services Agencies to align certification periods for Medi-Cal when applicants and recipients for CalFresh are eligible for both programs. It is co-sponsored by Western Center and the California Food Policy Advocates.

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

Heading to the Governor's Desk! [AB 1930](#) ([Skinner](#)) would reduce barriers to federal food assistance and academic success for low-income college students by establishing protocols for qualifying and verifying an exemption to the CalFresh student ineligibility. It co-sponsored by Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

Position: Sponsor & Support

DEAD! [AB 2115](#) ([Bradford](#)) would add child nutrition and feeding programs to the list of resources that must be provided to CalFresh applicants when a child is present in the home. This bill is co-sponsored by the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and Western Center. Held on Suspense in Senate Appropriations.

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

Access to Jobs and Justice

Heading to the Governor's Desk! [SB 1010](#) ([Mitchell](#)) would equalize the criminal penalties for cocaine that poor people buy (crack) and that rich people buy (powder).

Position: Support

Heading to the Governor's Desk! [AB 1522](#) ([Gonzalez](#)) would establish the right to 3 paid sick days for employees, but exempts in-home support workers from this right.

Position: Support

On the Governor's Desk! [AB 1658](#) ([Jones-Sawyer](#)) would establish a protocol for assisting foster youth in protecting their consumer credit reports when a security violation has occurred.

Position: Support

Heading to the Governor's Desk! [AB 1792 \(Gomez\)](#) would require the state to prepare an annual report to the legislature to inform them about which employers and sectors of employment are paying a wage low enough to qualify that their employees for Medi-Cal.

Position: Support

DEAD! [AB 2724 \(Bradford\)](#) would require that courts exercise their authority to waive or reduce traffic fines and civil assessments for persons on public assistance and require the courts to revoke suspensions of driver licenses when a payment plan is agreed upon. Held on Suspense in Senate Appropriations.

Position: Sponsor & Support

On the Governor's Desk! [AB 1866 \(Bocanegra\)](#) would require that the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CaLPADS) be changed to increase information available to policy makers about the causes and consequences of chronic absenteeism and truancy.

Position: Support

CalWORKs & Job Training and Opportunities to Kids Legislation

DEAD! [AB 264 \(Maienschein\)](#) would remove the requirement that the once-in-a-lifetime, sixteen days of CalWORKs temporary homeless assistance must be used in consecutive days. Held on Suspense in Senate Appropriations.

Position: Sponsor & Support

DEAD! [AB 271 \(Mitchell\)](#) would repeal the Maximum Family Grant rule of the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program and prohibit the state from inserting itself into the private reproductive and medical decisions of poor families seeking basic needs assistance for their newborn children. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, the East Bay Community Law Center and Access: Women's Health Justice. Held on Suspense in Senate Appropriations.

Position: Sponsor & Support

DEAD! [AB 1452 \(Stone\)](#) would increase the CalWORKs temporary homeless assistance minimum value. Held on Suspense in Senate Appropriations.

Position: Support

DEAD! [AB 1502 \(Mullin\)](#) will end penalties in the CalWORKs program for two-parent households. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Advocates. Held on Suspense in Senate Appropriations.

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

DEAD! [AB 1516 \(Gonzalez\)](#) would reduce negative health impact associated with unmet diaper needs of very poor children by establishing a young child supplement in the CalWORKs program and establish a public-private funding initiative to encourage local solutions to unmet diaper needs. Held on Suspense in Senate Appropriations.

Position: Support

Heading to the Governor's Desk! [AB 1579 \(Stone\)](#) would allow for a pregnant woman (with no other children in the household) to become eligible for CalWORKs basic needs grants upon verification that she is in her 2nd trimester of pregnancy rather than her 3rd trimester. This bill is sponsored by Western Center and supported by the Women's Foundation of California Women's Policy Institute Domestic Violence Team.

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

DEAD! [AB 1613 \(Stone\)](#) would modernize the threshold for overpayments collected through the CalWORKs program. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center and Coalition of California Welfare Rights Advocates. Held on Suspense in Senate Appropriations.

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

Heading to the Governor's Desk! [AB 1614 \(Stone\)](#) would protect and empower low-income consumers who receive their benefits through the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center and the California Reinvestment Coalition.

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

DEAD! [AB 1653 \(Garcia\)](#) would strengthen safety net support for domestic violence victims who seek help through the CalWORKs Program. This bill is co-sponsored by the California Coalition of Welfare Rights Organizations and Western Center on Law & Poverty. Held on Suspense in Senate Appropriations.

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

DEAD! [AB 1654 \(Bonilla\)](#) would increase the threshold for the child support passed through to children who receive CalWORKs basic needs assistance. Held on Suspense in Senate Appropriations.

Position: Sponsor & Support

SIGNED! [AB 2252 \(Speaker Emeritus Pérez\)](#) would conform federal and state law concerning protections for child support payments when deposited into an account from the State Department of Child Support Services. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center and the National Consumer Law Center. Signed by the Governor. Chapter 180, Statutes of 2014.

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

Heading to the Governor's Desk! [AB 2382 \(Bradford\)](#) would end the truancy double penalty for poor school children and their families. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, the Children's Defense Fund of California and 9-to-5 National Association of Working Women, California Branch.

Position: Co-Sponsor & Support

DEAD! [AB 2591 \(Weber\)](#) would establish a Homeless Youth Basic Materials Needs Assistance Program. Held on Suspense in Senate Appropriations.

County General Assistance and General Relief

DEAD! [AB 2311 \(Bradford\)](#) would require counties to provide 12 months of assistance through their General Assistance or General Relief program for honorably discharged veterans. Held on Suspense in Senate Appropriations.

Position: Support

About Western Center on Law and Poverty

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