

Western Center's 2016 Sponsored Legislation February 23, 2016

Following is a list of bills that are being sponsored by Western Center on Law & Poverty to help secure housing, healthcare and a strong safety net for low-income Californians. This is in addition to the many bills that Western Center supports, opposes and seeks to amend.

Housing

[AB 551](#) (Nazarian) would take the first steps towards establishing basic rights and responsibilities for landlords and tenants in connection with bedbug infestations in residential rental property. Co-sponsored with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation.

[AB 587](#) (Chau) would create a tax abatement program for those mobilehomes for which title was never properly transferred, giving homeowners a path to bringing title current without paying years of back taxes. Co-sponsored with the Golden State Manufactured-Home Owners League.

[AB 2501](#) (Bloom and Low) would strengthen local government compliance with State Density Bonus Law. Co-sponsored with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation.

[AB 2502](#) (Mullin and Chiu) would overturn the *Palmer* decision and restore the ability of local governments to fully implement local inclusionary policies. Co-sponsored with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation.

[AB 2556](#) (Nazarian) would clarify the no net loss provisions of State Density Bonus Law to ensure that local governments and developers can meaningfully comply with replacement housing requirements. Co-sponsored with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation.

[AB 2819](#) (Chiu) would amend the Code of Civil Procedure to keep court records private in eviction lawsuits unless landlords prevail within 60 days of filing. Co-sponsored with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation.

[SB 1053](#) (Leno) would amend the Fair Employment and Housing Act to clarify that housing choice vouchers and other types of federal, state, and local housing assistance are a protected source of income, ensuring that landlords cannot deny applicants simply because they

receive rental subsidies. Co-sponsored with the Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California.

Health

[AB 1114](#) (Bonilla) would clarify that Medi-Cal and Covered California forms and notices must be translated into the thirteen Medi-Cal threshold languages.

[AB 2077](#) (Burke and Bonilla) would require procedures for people to move between Medi-Cal and Covered California without being uninsured.

[AB 2394](#) (E. Garcia) would clarify that nonmedical transportation, including roundtrip transportation for covered Medi-Cal services, is a Medi-Cal benefit.

[SB 33](#) (Hernandez) would limit Medi-Cal estate recovery to long term care costs. Co-sponsored with California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform.

[SB 260](#) (Monning) would require County Organized Health Systems – a type of Medi-Cal health plan – to be licensed by the Department of Managed Health Care as other Medi-Cal plans are.

[SB 1339](#) (Monning) would improve processing of inter-county transfers for people who receive CalFresh, CalWORKs and Medi-Cal. Co-sponsored with United Ways of California and the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organization.

CalFresh, Emergency Food and School Meals

[AB 608](#) (Gordon) would add child nutrition and feeding programs to the list of resources that must be provided to CalFresh applicants with a child in the home. Co-sponsored with the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo County.

[AB 702](#) (Maienschein) would remove the requirement that the once-in-a-lifetime, sixteen days of CalWORKs temporary homeless assistance must be used in consecutive days. Co-sponsored with the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

[AB 1567](#) (Campos) would waive fees and give priority access to state funded afterschool programs for children who are homeless or members of a CalWORKs assistance unit. Co-sponsored with the Children's Defense Fund.

[AB 1742](#) (Stone) would improve the work support benefits of the CalWORKs program by allowing parents meeting the federal work requirement to participate in the program for the

full amount allowed under federal law and by increasing the program's Earned Income Disregard. Co-sponsored with the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

[AB 1747](#) (Weber) would address college student hunger by requiring all public colleges to provide surcharge-free access to EBT and to CalFresh restaurant meal programs, as appropriate. Co-sponsored with the UC Student Association, the San Diego Hunger Alliance and Young Invincibles.

[AB 1790](#) (Weber) would ensure that anyone meeting federal work participation rates would not be sanctioned in the CalWORKs program. Co-sponsored with the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

[AB 1809](#) (Lopez) would eliminate the CalWORKs Asset Test. Co-sponsored with EARN.

[AB 2057](#) (Stone) would clarify laws concerning issuing replacement benefits for CalFresh recipients fleeing domestic violence. Co-sponsored with the Women's Policy Institute and the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence.

[AB 2151](#) (Chu) would increase CalWORKs special needs food assistance to \$20 and would establish that it be distributed as a food benefit, not cash. It would also provide that a nutritionist, nurse, health practitioner, in addition to a physician, could verify the special dietary need. Co-sponsored with the Women's Policy Institute.

[AB 2768](#) (Thurmond) would provide a tax credit for prepared food donations to soup kitchens and hot food providers. Co-sponsored with the California Restaurant Association, and the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Western States Counsel.

[SB 904](#) (Hertzberg) would require the state to maximize federally-funded food aid when unemployment is high and reduce harm of the CalFresh Able Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) three month time limit. Co-sponsored with the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations.

[SB 1232](#) (Leno) would simplify and improve transparency in the verification of work by requiring counties, when they choose to use electronic employment databases, to use the verification of earned income in way that is both transparent & helpful to low-income workers applying for assistance.

Public Benefits and Access to Jobs and Justice

[AB 1572](#) (Campos) would improve the capacity of low-income students to participate regularly in school and after-school activities, thereby increasing the likelihood of graduation and future success. Co-sponsored with the Children's Defense Fund, 9-to-5 National Association of Working Women, California Branch and the Youth Justice Coalition.

[SB 3](#) (Leno & Leyva) would increase the minimum wage in California. Co-sponsored with the Service Employees United International – California State Council, United Food and Commercial Workers – Western State's Council and the Women's Foundation of California.

[SB 23](#) (Mitchell) would repeal the Maximum Family Grant rule of the CalWORKs program. Co-sponsored with the East Bay Community Law Center, County Welfare Directors Association, American Civil Liberties Union, Access Women's Health Justice and California Latinas for Reproductive Justice.

[SB 876](#) (Liu), the Right to Rest Act, would make it illegal to discriminate against people based on their homelessness status. Co-sponsored with the Western Regional Advocacy Project, the Lawyers Committee of the San Francisco Bay Area and Jericho: A Voice for Justice.

[SB 878](#) (Leyva) would establish statewide labor standards that guarantee workers the right to fair work schedules, including advance notice of schedules, compensation for last-minute changes, access to full-time hours, and the ability to request scheduling changes without fear of retaliation. Co-sponsored with the California Labor Federation and the UFCW Western States Council.

[SB 881](#) (Hertzberg) would require courts to exercise authority to waive or reduce traffic fines and civil assessments for persons on public assistance and to revoke suspensions of driver licenses when a payment plan is agreed upon.

[SB 882](#) (Hertzberg) would establish that youth cannot be charged with a penal code violation for failing to pay a transit fare. Co-sponsored with the Children's Defense Fund and Youth Justice Los Angeles.

[SB 941](#) (Mitchell) would repeal law allowing probation departments to collect administrative fees from parents whose children have been placed in juvenile detention or on probation. Co-sponsored with the East Bay Community Law Center, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area and Youth Justice Coalition.

[SB 947](#) (Pan) would give flexibility to the County Human Services Agencies when determining whether or not the mandatory application interview for CalWORKs can be completed by phone.

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

Housing

Anya Lawler
ALawler@wclp.org, 916-282-5103

Jith Meganathan
JMeganathan@wclp.org, 916-282-5106

Health

Elizabeth Landsberg
ELandsberg@wclp.org, 916-282-5118

Human Services

Jessica Bartholow
JBartholow@wclp.org, 916-282-5119

Linda Nguy
LNguy@wclp.org, 916-282-5117

Mike Herald
MHerald@wclp.org, 916-282-5112