



2017-18 Two Year Legislative Session
CA WIC Association (CWA) Bill Monitor Report

Breastfeeding Support Bills:

ACR 113 (Rubio):

**Status: Chapter 167 by
Secretary of State
(Passed S. Floor 40-0)**

Breastfeeding Awareness Resolution

CWA is sponsoring this important resolution to declare August 2017 as Breastfeeding Awareness Month in CA. It will coincide with National Breastfeeding Awareness Month in August. Assembly Member Rubio has agreed to carry this for us. Note: Resolutions do not need to be signed into law by the Governor.

Sponsor: CWA

CWA Position: Support-Sponsor

Public Health Bills:

SB 300 (Monning):

**Sugar Sweetened Beverages: Warning Labels
(Author Did Not Bring Up Bill)**

Status: Dead Bill

This bill would establish the Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Health Warning Act requiring all sugar-sweetened beverages sold in CA in sealed containers or multi-pack containers have a health warning label, as defined.

Sponsor: Senator Monning

CWA Position: SUPPORT

Food Policy Bills:

SB 138 (McGuire):

Utilizing Medi-Cal to Enroll Kids in School Meals

**Status: Signed Into Law by
Governor Brown**

This bill would require the state and all school districts to utilize Medi-Cal Direct Certification to enroll students in the federal school meal programs. For the highest poverty schools, this bill would offer free breakfasts and lunches to all students through a federal universal meal provision.

Sponsor: CA Food Policy Advocates

CWA Position: SUPPORT

SB 250 (Hertzberg):

Anti-Discrimination: School Meal Debt

**Status: Signed Into Law by
Governor Brown**

This bill would establish state standards to prevent harmful treatment to schoolchildren when their families are unable to pay an unpaid debt to the school food services providers.

Sponsor: Western Center, Children's Defense Fund and Others

CWA Position: SUPPORT

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AB 164 (Arambula): **Status: Dead Bill**
New CalFresh Benefit During Disasters

This bill would establish a new chapter in Welfare and Institutions code which would provide for a state funded anti-hunger CalFresh benefit to be issued under prescribed circumstances, such as drought, disaster or in the case of federal SNAP ineligibility and to be issued using the EBT system.

Sponsor: California Food Policy Advocates
Position: SUPPORT

AB 274 (Garcia) **Status: Dead Bill**
Defines Snack Foods

This bill states the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that defines the term “snack food” for the purposes of sales and use taxes.

Sponsor: Author
Position: SUPPORT

SB 717 (Stern) **Status: Dead Bill**
Food Choice Bill

This measure would enact legislation to develop and implement policy to improve access to more equitable, sustainable and healthier food choices for all Californians.

Sponsor: Author
Position: SUPPORT

Family Support Bills:

AB 992 (Arambula): **Status: Dead Bill**
Baby Wellness & Family Home Visiting Program

This bill would establish the CalWORKS Baby Wellness and Family Support Home Visiting Program, a voluntary public health home visiting program to serve pregnant women and families with infants and toddlers in order to improve the health and family outcomes of children born into deep poverty.

Sponsor: Western Center and Children’s Defense Fund
Position: SUPPORT

SB 63 (Jackson) **Status: Signed Into Law by Governor Brown**
Parental Leave

This bill would further protect parental leave for bonding with a new child within one year of the child’s birth, adoption, or foster care placement and by clarifying and making illegal certain employment practices that limit leave and health care coverage.

Sponsor: Senator Jackson
Position: SUPPORT

SB 18 (Pan): **Status: Dead Bill**
The Children’s Bill of Rights

This bill, as recently amended, would make legislative findings and declarations relating to the needs and well-being of children and youth in California. The bill would create, until November 30, 2024, the Joint Legislative Committee on Children and Youth, with 18 members appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules and the Speaker of the Assembly, as specified. The bill would require the committee to develop “California’s Promise to its Children and Youth,” a framework for

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the care and welfare of children and youth in various contexts, including, but not limited to, health care, nutrition, homeless assistance, education, and foster care, as specified. The bill would require the committee to consider an unspecified Senate Concurrent Resolution, the Bill of Rights for the Children and Youth of California, if it is enacted and takes effect on or before January 1, 2018, for purposes of developing the framework.

**Sponsor: Dr. Pan
Position: WATCH**

AB 236 (Maienschein)

Status: Signed Into Law by Governor Brown

CalWORKs

This bill would make improvements to the CalWORKS Temporary Homeless Assistance Program.

**Sponsor: Western Center on Law & Poverty, County Welfare Directors Assoc, and Coalition of CA Welfare Rights Organizations
Position: SUPPORT**

AB 557 (Rubio)

Status: Signed Into Law by Governor Brown

CalWORKS and Domestic Violence

This bill would require counties to waive CalWORKs rules that were unfair to a survivor of domestic abuse or would make it more difficult for them to avoid violence.

**Sponsor: Western Center on Law & Poverty, CA Partnership to End Domestic Violence, Coalition of CA Welfare Rights Organizations and In Our Own Voice National
Position: SUPPORT**

Medical and Dental Bills:

SB 575 (Levy)

Status: Signed Into Law by Governor Brown

Access to Medical Records

This bill would provide low-income Californian's with free access to their medical records when applying for certain public benefit programs.

**Sponsor: Author
Position: SUPPORT**

**AB 15 (Maienschein)
Dental Funding**

Status: Dead Bill: Budget Issue Now

This bill would require the State Department of Health Care Services to double Denti-Cal provider reimbursement rates for the 15 most common prevention, treatment, and oral evaluation services based on certain average rates. Makes an appropriation from the Healthcare Treatment Fund.

**Sponsor: Author; CDA Supports "In Concept"
FUNDING SECURED IN STATE BUDGET WITH GENERAL FUND DOLLARS TO RESTORE ADULT DENTAL SERVICES AND TO INCREASE RATES TO DENTAL PROVIDERS UNDER MEDI-CAL**

**AB 753 (Caballero)
Dental Funding**

Status: Dead Bill: Budget Issue Now

This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services to implement specific initiative designed to significantly improve access to dental services for adults and children in the Medi-Cal Program, including a Dental Transformation Initiative for adults consistent with the existing goals and programmatic infrastructure and teledentistry. Would also require an increase in reimbursement rates of qualified providers for certain pediatric diagnostic and restorative services.

Sponsor: Author

FUNDING SECURED IN STATE BUDGET WITH GENERAL FUND DOLLARS TO RESTORE ADULT DENTAL SERVICES AND TO INCREASE RATES TO DENTAL PROVIDERS UNDER MEDI-CA

Note: Dental Issues were addressed in the CA State Budget: Adult Dental benefits were fully restored as of 1/1/18 at \$34.8 Million General Fund; \$78 million annually after that. Dental rates for providers were also increased by \$140 Million annually.

Immigration Protection Bills:

**AB 291 (Chiu)
Protection for Immigrant Tenants**

Status: Signed Into Law by Governor Brown

This bill would enact significant protections for immigrant tenants, including prohibiting landlords from threatening to call immigration authorities and codifying an affirmative defense to evictions based on immigration status.

Sponsor: Western Center on Law & Poverty & CA Rural Legal Assistance Foundation

Position: SUPPORT

County Contracting Bill:

**AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer)
Limits County Contracts with Outside Entities**

Status: Dead for 2017: 2 Yr. Bill

This bill would limit outside contracts with entities doing business with county governments. Legislative Leadership sent this bill back to the Senate Rules Committee and is urging all parties to work on a solution that addresses this issue. There is disagreement between the labor unions and the not for profit associations who often represent the poor or disabled who seek to secure various contracts with local governments.

Sponsor: Labor Unions

Position: OPPOSE CURRENT BILL