



2014

CA WIC Association (CWA) Bill Monitor Report

Breastfeeding Support Bills:

AB 1787/Lowenthal:

Status: SIGNED INTO LAW!

Breastfeeding in Airports – Would Require Private Space to Breastfeed

This bill would require the airport manager of an airport that conducts commercial operations to provide the use of a room or other location, other than a toilet stall, at each airport terminal behind airport security screening for members of the public to express breast milk in private.

Sponsor: Author

CWA Position: SUPPORT

CalWORKS & CalFresh Bills:

SB 899/Mitchell:

Status: DEAD

Would Repeal the Maximum Family Grant Cap

This bill is being sponsored by the Western Center on Law & Poverty to repeal the Maximum Family Grant (MFG) rule in the California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program. SB 899 would end the MFG rule, protecting the health and safety of infants and children born into poverty and ending the state's practice of inserting itself into the private reproductive and medical decisions of poor families.

Sponsor: Western Center on Law & Poverty

CWA Position: SUPPORT - Also Attempting to Address This Issue Via the State Budget

SB 1002/de Leon

Status: VETOED

Would Align Medi-Cal and CalFresh Reporting Periods

SB 1002 seeks to strengthen alignment between Medi-Cal and CalFresh reporting periods. Improved alignment will streamline benefit delivery and improve low-income Californians' access to federally funded health and nutrition benefits. Many low-income Californians receive both CalFresh and Medi-Cal benefits. This is because the rules for eligibility for both programs are similar. When possible, the state and county agencies should be allowed to reduce the administrative burden for program administrators and families alike and further the connection between nutrition and health by facilitating joint reporting and recertification processes.

Sponsor: Western Center on Law & Poverty & CA Food Policy Advocates

CWA Position: SUPPORT – GOVERNOR BELIEVES ISSUE CAN BE RESOLVED WITHOUT LEGISLATION

AB 1579/Stone:

Status: SIGNED INTO LAW!

CalWORKS Coverage for Pregnant Women

This bill, as amended, beginning July 1, 2015, provide that when a family does not include a needy child qualified for aid under Ca;WORKS, aid shall be paid to a pregnant woman beginning the month in which the birth is anticipated and for the 6 month period immediately prior to the month in which the birth is anticipated.

Sponsor: Western Center on Law & Poverty & CA Food Policy Advocates

CWA Position: SUPPORT

AB 1614/Stone:

Status: DEAD

CalWORKS 24 Hour Toll Free Hotline and EBT System

This bill would require the CalWORKS/CalFresh 24-hour toll-free telephone hotline to provide recipients, at no additional cost, access to a complete transaction history detail for use by the recipient for financial management and dispute resolution. This bill would require the system to have an Internet Web site for the reporting of lost or stolen cards, as specified. This bill would also require, no later than January 1, 2016, that the EBT system be designed to inform recipients that access to electronic benefits is temporarily unavailable if the system does not function or is expected not to function for more than a one-hour period between 6:00 a.m. and midnight during any 24-hour period.

Sponsor: Western Center on Law & Poverty

CWA Position: SUPPORT

AB 2115/Bradford:

Status: DEAD

Cal Fresh: Would Add Information on Local Feeding Programs and School Lunch & Breakfast Programs

This bill would require a county welfare department to compile a list of child feeding and summer feeding programs. The bill would also require a county human services agency to provide an applicant household that has children with information about how to enroll the children in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs while the CalFresh application is pending and to inform the household that if the household is certified for CalFresh, all children in the household are directly certified for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs without further application.

Sponsor: Author

CWA Position: SUPPORT: Author added WIC Program to the bill per CWA's request

Healthy Foods & Child Nutrition Bills:

SB 1000/Monning:

Status: DEAD

Would Place Warning Labels on Soda Cans and Other Sugary Beverages

This measure will place warning labels on sodas and other sugary beverages with the intention of curbing the alarming rise in childhood obesity and diabetes in CA.

Sponsor: CA Center for Public Health Advocacy

CWA Position: SUPPORT

AB 2413/Perez:

Status: SIGNED INTO LAW!

Would Create the Office of Farm to Fork

This bill would create the Office of Farm to Fork within the department to, among other things, work with various entities, including, among others, the agricultural industry and other organizations involved in promoting food access, to increase the amount of agricultural products available to underserved communities and schools in the state. The bill would require the office to, among other things, identify urban and rural communities that lack access to healthy food, and to coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies to promote and increase awareness of programs that promote greater food access. The bill would create the Farm to Fork Account in the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund that would consist of money made available from federal, state, industry, and other sources, and would continuously appropriate the money deposited in the account without regard to fiscal years to carry out the purposes of the Office of Farm to Fork. By creating a continuously appropriated fund, the bill would make an appropriation.

Sponsor: Perez

CWA Position: SUPPORT

SB 912/Mitchell:

Status: SIGNED INTO LAW!

Limits Unhealthy Foods in State Vending Machines & State Buildings

Existing law regulates various aspects of the provision of food and beverages in vending machines, including requiring a vendor that operates or maintains a vending machine on designated state property, until a specified date, to offer food and beverages in the vending machine that meet accepted nutritional guidelines, as defined, in accordance with certain percentages. This bill would delete the repeal date, thereby extending the operation of those provisions indefinitely.

Sponsor: CA Center for Public Health Advocacy

CWA Position: SUPPORT

AB 2449/Bocanegra:

Status: DEAD

This bill would express legislative intent that schools provide pupils with adequate time to eat lunch during the school day. The bill would require school districts and county offices of education, in addition to providing a nutritionally adequate free or reduced-price meal for each needy pupil each school day, to ensure that there is adequate time to eat the meal after it is served. To the extent this requirement would create new duties for school districts and county offices of education, it would constitute a state-mandated local program.

Sponsor: CA Food Policy Advocates

CWA Position: SUPPORT

Other Issues:

SB 993/Mitchell & Hernandez:

Status: SIGNED INTO LAW!

Dieticians & Dietetic Technicians in CA – Scope of Practice Bill

This bill would revise the qualifications required for a person representing himself or herself as a dietetic technician, and would require the dietetic technician to have completed his or her course of study before assisting the registered dietitian. This bill would also allow a registered dietitian, under the above-described circumstances, to develop and recommend nutritional and dietary treatments, as provided, and would allow the registered dietitian to be authorized to provide medical nutrition therapy pursuant to a licensed health care facility's approved policy and procedure, as provided.

Sponsor: CA Dietetic Association (CDA)

CWA Position: SUPPORT

AB 1516/Gonzalez:

Status: DEAD

Diapers: Financial Assistance to Moms

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would empower beneficiaries of public assistance programs with young children in diapers to return to the workforce by removing unnecessary obstacles to obtaining diapers to the extent permitted by federal law. **Sponsor: Author**

CWA Position: WATCH

SB 947/Berryhill:

Status: DEAD

EBT Spot Bill

This is a spot bill.

Sponsor: Author

CWA Position: WATCH (DEAD FOR THE YEAR)

AB 1661/Bonta

Status: DEAD

HOPE Act of 2014 – To Increase Access to Fresh Fruits & Vegetables

This bill would enact the Healthy Options for Everyone (HOPE) Act of 2014, and authorize a city, county, or city and county, after a public hearing, to establish by ordinance a HOPE Incentive Zone within its boundaries for the purpose of increasing the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables, and other grown foods within the zone The bill was recently amended to state that the Legislature encourages cities, counties, or a city and county to issue annual permits at a discounted rate to a farmers' market operating within a HOPE Incentive Zone.

CWA Position: WATCH

SPONSOR: Author

AB 2385/Ting

Status: DEAD

Market Match Nutrition Incentive Program

This bill would create the Market Match Nutrition Incentive Account in the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund to collect matching funds received from a specified federal grant program used to provide grants under the Market Match Nutrition Incentive Program and to administer the Market Match Nutrition Incentive Program in accordance with specified requirements. **Sponsor: Author -- CWA Position: Support and Seek Amendments to Add Correct WIC Program Codes**