



April 2, 2003

TO: Summit Participants and Supporters
FR: Kate Karpilow, Executive Director
RE: Update on Working Families Issues Addressed at the 2003 Summit

Many Summit participants have requested information on the status of budget items and bills proposed at the Summit. Below is an update on some of the activities of our presenters.

CCRWF regrets that we cannot respond to inquiries about specific bills. Please contact the individuals or organizations identified as sponsors.

Thank you for your support of the California Working Families Policy Summit.

TAKING CARE OF OUR CHILDREN

Preschool Summit

Key Date: The Assembly and Senate Education Committees and three select committees are holding a joint hearing on universal preschool on Thursday, April 24, 2003, from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. in Room 4202 at the State Capitol.

The hearing will explore topics vital to the creation of a quality statewide preschool system, including workforce issues, funding, and educational and social standards. These topics will be presented in testimony from representatives of preschool programs in other states, advocates from business, law enforcement, social services, childhood research, statewide government, school teachers, and others.

To RSVP for this hearing or if you have any questions, e-mail Joe Landon at Joe.Landon@asm.ca.gov or call 916-319-2016.

Realignment of Child Care

The debate over child care realignment is unresolved and new information emerges daily. On March 24, the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education voted to take child care out of realignment and made it clear that this first step does not rule out future child care cuts.

The child care community opposes realignment and has joined together as the California Partnership for Early Care and Education. Updates can be found at:

Child Development Policy Institute: www.cdpi.net/budget.htm

Child Care Legislation

The Child Care Law Center is sponsoring SB 14 (Escutia) which establishes funding for new construction or expansion of center-based early childhood education and after-school programs and also establishes a loan program for family child care homes. Funding would be through a bond measure.

For more information on current child care budget and policy issues:

Child Care Law Center: www.childcarelaw.org

After-School Budget Cuts

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids California is opposing the Governor's proposed cut to the After School Education and Safety Program, which is one of the state's largest after-school programs for elementary and middle schools. Current funding is approximately \$113.3 million (following an \$8.3 million mid-year cut). In his 2003-04 budget, the Governor proposes \$107.3 million for this program – a further \$6 million cut.

TAKING CARE OF OUR FAMILIES

Food Stamps

California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) is sponsoring AB 231, the *Save Money, Cut Hunger Act*, introduced by Assembly Member Darrell Steinberg.

Key Date: The bill will be heard on April 8 at 1:30 p.m. in the Assembly Human Services Committee.

The federal Food Stamp Program is a cost-effective tool that helps hard-working families put food on the table. As a federally funded benefits program, it provides over \$1.5 billion in food purchasing dollars to hungry people and helps stimulate local economies throughout California.

AB 231 would:

- Eliminate the expensive and wasteful Statewide Finger Imaging System.
- Utilize a new federal option to extend transitional food stamp benefits to families leaving cash assistance.
- Allow California to join the majority of other states in increasing the food stamp and CalWORKs auto resource rule from the federal limit of \$4,650.
- Help working families enroll in the Food Stamp Program by reducing the number of times they must visit the food stamp office to complete their application.

For more information or to get involved in support of AB 231, contact Autumn Arnold at autumn@cfpa.net or 415-777-4422, ext. 107. Click here for a statement of support:

http://www.cfpa.net/legislation/2003statelegislativeagenda_files/AB231supportstatement.pdf

For additional updates on AB 231, access the CFPA website at www.cfpa.net.

Nutrition and Physical Activity

In addition to working to implement SB 19 which established nutritional standards for food sold at elementary schools, limited availability of carbonated beverages in middle schools, and increased school meal reimbursements, the California Center for Public Health Advocacy (CCPHA; www.publichealthadvocacy.org) is also working on or supporting a number of bills and hearings.

SB 677 (Ortiz):

This bill prohibits the sale of carbonated beverages in schools, over time: elementary schools effective Jan. 1, 2004; middle and junior high schools effective Jan. 1, 2005; and high schools effective Jan. 1, 2007.

SB 678 (Ortiz):

This bill would require each elementary, middle, and high school that sells unhealthy beverages on its campus to offer for sale at least an equal number of water containers of comparable size at a cost of at least 10% less than the cost of the unhealthy beverage. The bill would require that any vending machine located on a school campus contain at least as many dispensing slots for healthy beverages as unhealthy beverages. The bill would prohibit the distribution of free unhealthy beverages to pupils on any school campus. The bill would define healthy beverages and unhealthy beverages for the purposes of these provisions.

Key Date: Hearings on SB 677 and 678 are scheduled for April 23 in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

SB 74 (Torlakson):

This bill would require each vendor that operates or maintains a vending machine on designated state property to satisfy the requirement that at least 50% of the food and beverages offered at the vending machine meet accepted nutritional guidelines, as defined.

AB 598 (Hancock):

This bill would, in part, make school bond funds available to modernize school water fountains and require that any school using bonds to modernize their school also have working water fountains.

Key Date: A hearing is scheduled on AB 598 for April 23 in the Assembly Education Committee.

Another Important Date: As Senator Ortiz committed at the Summit, the Senate Health and Human Services Committee will hold a hearing on how advertising to children is affecting the obesity epidemic. The hearing will be held on June 11.

Health Care

The Western Center on Law & Poverty (WCLP) is working to *oppose* the following proposals in the Governor's budget that affect health care for the state's poorest and most vulnerable populations:

- Reinstatement of Quarterly Status Reporting, which would cut approximately 200,000 eligible people from Medi-Cal.
- Elimination of the 2nd year of Transitional Medi-Cal, which would cause thousands of vulnerable working families to become uninsured.
- Reduction of the Aged and Disabled Federal Poverty Level Program, which would make health coverage unaffordable for up to 70,000 aged and disabled individuals.
- Roll back of the 1931(b) Medi-Cal Program, which would cut hundreds of thousands of low-income children and their families from Medi-Cal.
- Elimination of 18 optional Medi-Cal benefits, which would devastate the health of adults who rely on these services.

WCLP is also opposing the Governor's 03-04 budget proposal to establish new accountability standards to measure county Medi-Cal agencies' performance of eligibility functions. The proposed standards disregard existing state and federal mandates, inappropriately measure performance on caseload growth, and provide neither a vehicle for stakeholder input nor public access to results. However, appropriate performance standards could both measure county accountability and improve delivery of services to poor people eligible for Medi-Cal.

For each of the above positions, WCLP has background papers available at www.wclp.org. For additional information, contact Angela Gilliard, Legislative Advocate at 916-442-0753, ext. 15, or agilliard@wclp.org.

COMMUNITIES THAT WORK FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Land Use and Transportation

The California Futures Network (CFN) is sponsoring legislation and has taken a number of positions on the state budget:

AB 391 (Montanez) would require newly constructed and modernized schools to include kitchen facilities, space for instructional gardens, and cafeterias designed to accommodate salad bars.

Key Date: AB 391 will be heard in the Assembly Education Committee on April 23. If you have questions or comments, contact bill sponsors: Julie Spezia at 916-325-2533, ext. 326, or Chris Kypriotis, ext. 313.

AB 531 (Kehoe) would place on the ballot for voter approval in November 2004 a \$10 billion bond measure to be used by the Infrastructure Bank in grants and loans to local governments for infrastructure to support infill development or to replace aging infrastructure in existing communities.

SB 806 (Sher) requires counties to identify in their general plans "County Urbanized Areas" with a boundary and a sphere of influence. Also requires LAFCO to approve subsequent annexations and expansions of the sphere.

With the Latino Issues Forum and the Environmental Policy Center, CFN is also opposing a number of proposed budget cuts relating to:

- Williamson Act Subventions
- California Main Street Program
- Public Transit Funding
- Redevelopment Agency Funds for Affordable Housing

For updates of CFN bills, go to their website at www.calfutures.org.

Tax Policy

The California Tax Reform Association has endorsed the following bills:

Commercial Property Tax Reform

SB 17 (Escutia) states Legislative intent to enact a program specifying the circumstances under which nonresidential commercial and industrial property undergo a change in ownership. The bill intends to ensure that all real property is assessed at fair market value when real property undergoes a change in ownership.

Collection of Lost Sales Tax Revenues

SB 103 (Alpert) would provide that companies with nexus (or "physical presence") in California who maintain dot.com affiliates must collect sales tax through their remote affiliates if they sell the same or similar products under the same or similar name or if the retailer with nexus cross-promotes or advertises on behalf of the remote affiliate. The bill would also create nexus for servicing and repairing if a remote retailer has an independent contractor, agent, or representative acting under their authority. According to testimony of the Board of Equalization, the bill would raise \$21 million.

Streamlined Sales Tax

SB 157 (Bowen) would require California to join the Streamlined Sales Tax Project and take a seat at the table for further discussions with an eye toward adopting the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement (SSUTA). The ultimate goal of the SSUTA is to show Congress and the courts that forcing Internet and remote sellers to collect sales taxes does not impose an unworkable burden on them and does not violate the interstate commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution – the clause which the courts have relied upon in preventing states from collecting these lost sales tax revenues. The Board of Equalization estimates that California loses more than \$1.2 billion in revenues a year from Internet and remote sellers failing to collect sales taxes on sales to California customers.

For information on the bills, contact David Kersten, Legislative Advocate, California Tax Reform Association, at davidk@cal.net or 916-446-4300.

Workplace Policies

The Commission on the Status of Women is currently monitoring the following pieces of legislation introduced this session that most closely relate to their Summit recommendations.

AB 17 (Kehoe) would prohibit state agencies from entering into contracts with vendors who do not offer benefits to domestic partner employees that are equal to benefits offered to employees with spouses.

AB 76 (Corbett) would protect employees from harassment by a client or customer.

AB 196 (Leno) would protect individuals from discriminatory treatment based on gender-related characteristics, specifically those whose identity, appearance, or behavior does not conform to stereotypical gender expectations.

SB 57 (Burton) would adjust California's minimum wage annually beginning January 2, 2004, indexing it to the rate of inflation.

SB 60 (Cedillo) would permit all California motorists regardless of immigration status to apply for a driver's license, modifying the social security number requirement and eliminating the lawful presence requirement.

SB 727 (Kuehl) would clarify provisions of the Family Temporary Disability Leave law with regard to the chronically ill.

SB 917 (Alarcón) would prohibit directors of corporations from performing their duties at the expense of the environment, human rights, the public health and safety, the welfare of communities, or the dignity of employees.

For more information about a bill, contact the author's office or Vicki Atwood at the Commission office at 916-322-9462.