



## FCLCA Update

June 7, 2022

It's budget season here in Sacramento, with the Legislature facing the June 15 deadline to pass and deliver a budget bill to Gov. Newsom. In May the governor presented the revision of his proposed spending plan. And just recently the state Senate and Assembly announced a joint budget framework that contains many critical investments that FCLCA and our coalitions have been advocating for. Now the leaders of the Legislature and the governor will enter into final negotiations to reconcile differences in their plans.

Thank you for making it possible for us to participate and be part of these historic investments in a more just and sustainable California!

Here are a few highlights from the Legislature's proposed framework:

The legislative joint agreement includes a \$21 billion climate and energy plan to address water and drought resilience, wildfire resilience, sea level rise, extreme heat, renewable energy and zero-emission vehicles.

FCLCA is a member of the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) Coalition and the End Child Poverty in California Campaign. These coalitions have been working for months advocating for a \$10 billion investment in FY2022-23 to reduce child and family poverty. We're excited to tell you that we calculate that the Legislature is proposing an investment of over \$11 billion! - including:

Eliminating deep child poverty (under 50% of the federal poverty line) by increasing CalWORKS grants to bring 450,000 children up above that level. We would be the first state to accomplish this goal.

Expanding California's Young Child Tax Credit - aligning it with the federal Child Tax Credit - to those families with \$0 income, e.g., for families where the adults are fulltime caregivers.

Creating a \$255 minimum CalEITC for all workers, which will provide a larger credit for an estimated three million taxpayers without children in the home, as well as an additional 400,000 families with children

Creating a Foster Youth Tax Credit to provide an annual refundable \$1,000 credit to young adults who were in the foster care system.

Creating the HOPE Account Program to provide trust fund accounts for low-income children who have lost parents or caregivers to COVID-19 and for children who experienced long-term foster care.

Providing \$200 per person relief to low and middle-income households through the \$8 billion "Better for Families" rebates, along with an additional rebate for CalWORKS families and those

enrolled in Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment Program. Advocates believe this will better target those most in need rather than relief based on vehicle registration as proposed by the governor. [\(more details here\)](#).

## **Bills Move into the Second House**

By the end of May, all bills had to have passed out of their house of origin and now go through the hearing and voting process in the second house. A few highlights of bills FCLCA has been involved with that are moving forward:

AB 2167, by Ash Kalra, and sponsored by FCLCA, the National Association of Social Workers and Initiate Justice, passed the Assembly Floor and now moves to the Senate. The bill declares the Legislature's intent that the disposition of a criminal case use the least restrictive means available and requires judges to consider alternatives to incarceration when sentencing.

SB 300 (Cortese) repeals the felony-murder special circumstance requiring punishment by death or imprisonment for life without parole for a person convicted of first-degree murder who is not the actual killer and did not intend to kill and restores judicial discretion to dismiss a "special circumstance," which can result in a sentence of death or life without parole.

AB 256 (Kalra) is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The California Racial Justice Act of 2020 prohibits the State from seeking or obtaining a criminal conviction on the basis of race, ethnicity or national origin. AB 256 would make the Racial Justice Act retroactive so that defendants may file a petition to have their verdict vacated or the case retried if race was a factor in cases which were adjudicated prior to 2021.

SB 1173 (Lena Gonzalez) requires CalPERS and CalSTRS to divest their holdings in the largest oil producers by 2030. The bill is vigorously opposed by the Building and Construction Trades Council and the Western States Petroleum Association.

AB 2026 (Friedman) prohibits online retailers from using single-use plastic packaging to ship or transport products.

AB 1621 (Gipson) prohibits the sale, possession, and purchase of unserialized parts and kits used to build ghost guns and the possession of existing ghost guns.

SB 951 (Durazo) increase the wage replacement rate for lower income workers so that they can afford to take time off under programs they pay into as workers: State Disability Insurance and Paid Family Leave.