

Assembly Committee on Human Services
2021-22
Legislative Bill Summary
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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

Assembly Human Services Committee

2021 - 22 Legislative Bill Summary

INTRODUCTION

The Assembly Committee on Human Services has jurisdiction over programs and services designed to assist the state's most vulnerable populations, including children who have been abused or neglected, people with disabilities, low-income families, and the elderly.

This report contains summaries of bills that were referred to, and considered by, the Assembly Human Services Committee during the 2021-22 Legislative Session. Bills that were passed by the Legislature and became law are shown with the chapter number; bills that were vetoed by the Governor or that otherwise failed to become law are so noted. Some bills could have been appropriately placed in several subject categories; an effort was made to place each bill under the most appropriate subject heading.

This publication is intended to be a useful summary of the Legislature's work in the area of human services during the 2021-22 Legislative Session. An electronic copy of this document is also available under "Publications" on the committee's web page at <http://ahum.assembly.ca.gov>.

Copies of analyses prepared by the Assembly Human Services Committee may be obtained by accessing the Official California Legislative Information internet web page maintained by the Legislative Counsel at www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov, or by writing to the Assembly Human Services Committee, Legislative Office Building, 1020 N Street - Room 124, Sacramento, CA 95814.

In addition to hearing bills, this committee held an oversight and an informational hearing this year. You will find summaries of each hearing at the end of this report.

Acronyms used in this report are as follows:

Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)
All County Letters (ACLs)
Alternative Payment Program (APP)
California Community Colleges (CCCs)
California Department of Education (CDE)
California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS)
California State University (CSU)
California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)
Continuum of Care (CoC)
California State Preschool Program (CSPP)
Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS)
California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)
Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT)
Federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA)
Nonminor Dependent (NMD)
Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE)
State Supplementary Payment (SSP)
Traditional Housing Provider (THP)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
University of California (UC)
Welfare-to-Work (WTW)

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CalFresh and Nutrition Benefits

AB 221 (Santiago) - Emergency food assistance.

Status: Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required CDSS to provide a food assistance benefit statewide to low-income California residents, regardless of their immigration status, contract with certain entities to issue the food assistance benefit, and would have required CDSS, no later than January 1, 2023, in consultation with a workgroup, to conduct a study to provide recommendations and solutions to a permanent food assistance program for low-income California residents experiencing food insecurity, regardless of their immigration status.

AB 396 (Gabriel) - CalFresh: educational programs.

Status: Chapter 461, Statutes of 2021

Requires CDSS to issue guidance to counties, the Chancellor's Offices of the CCCs and the CSU, and the Office of the President of the UC to clarify state and federal eligibility requirements and the application and approval process for campus-based local educational programs that increase employability that may qualify a student for an exemption to the CalFresh student rule. Also requires qualifying campus-based programs of the CCC and the CSU, and requests qualifying campus-based programs of the UC, to apply to become local education programs that increase employability by September 1, 2022. Additionally, requires CDSS to report, no later than September 1, 2023, and annually thereafter until 2030, certain data regarding the number of state-approved campus-based local educational programs that increase employability that were approved.

AB 674 (Bennett) - Dependent children: documents.

Status: Chapter 524, Statutes of 2021

Expands the list of information, documents, and services that a county welfare department, at the last review hearing prior to a youth's 18th birthday, must report to the court regarding its progress in providing the youth written information notifying the minor or nonminor that they may be eligible to receive, and where they may apply for, CalFresh benefits.

AB 889 (Gipson) - Food access: grocery stores.

Status: This bill was amended substantially on June 21, 2021, such that it no longer fell within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

As heard by this committee, required grocery establishments, no later than 60 or 180 days depending on the size of the establishment, to provide written notice of intended closure to CDSS, the city and county in which the establishment is located, and the local workforce development board, as specified. Also required a county to provide information to the grocery establishment about the availability of public social services benefits within their jurisdiction and further, required CDSS to include closure information on their internet website for the public.

AB 1326 (Arambula) - Public social services: county liaison for higher education.

Status: Chapter 570, Statutes of 2021

Requires a county human services agency to designate at least one employee as a staff liaison to serve as a contact for academic counselors and other professional staff at a campus of an institution of public higher education within the county to provide information on available public social services. Requires the county agency to develop protocols for engagement between the staff liaison and a campus of an institution of public higher education.

AB 1338 (Low) - Public social services programs: financial assistance demonstration and research programs.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required CDSS to develop a process to register any organization or entity that issues financial assistance through a program in the state; to make public on its website a list of those organizations or entities that have registered to issue financial assistance. Would have also required an organization or entity issuing financial assistance to register that program with the department; to provide the department with specified information, including disclosing all funding sources of the program under which the financial assistance income is distributed; and, upon the conclusion of the program, to report to the department on the research outcomes. Additionally, would have excluded, to the extent permitted under federal law, financial assistance received by an individual from an organization or entity registered with the department from being considered as income or resources for purposes of determining eligibility and benefit amounts for CalWORKs and CalFresh.

AB 1828 (Chen) - CalFresh: income eligibility: basic allowance for housing.

Status: Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required CDSS to submit an annual waiver request to the USDA to exclude the Basic Allowance for Housing for active service members from countable income for purposes of CalFresh eligibility.

AB 1965 (Wicks) - California Antihunger Response and Employment Training Act of 2022.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have required CDSS to establish the "California Antihunger Response Program" to provide state-funded benefits to individuals deemed ineligible for CalFresh as a result of the ABAWD time limit if a statewide time limit waiver is not granted by the federal government.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1965 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Social Services to create and

implement a new program under which able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) may receive state-funded nutrition assistance benefits if they are determined ineligible for federal nutrition assistance due to not meeting the federal ABAWD work rule.

I share the Author's interest in developing a solution to best serve the ABAWD population if and when they become ineligible for federal nutrition assistance. The Department has engaged and will continue to engage with counties and relevant stakeholders to safeguard access to federal nutrition assistance through existing federal percentage exemptions if and when the ABAWD work rule should go into effect again in California. The creation of a new system and process to address this issue is unnecessary at this time. Furthermore, this bill would require over \$100 million annually to implement which is not accounted for in the budget.

With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs. The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

AB 2100 (Carrillo) - CalFresh: Restaurant Meals Program.

Status: Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required CDSS to request a federal waiver to implement expanded eligibility for the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program to all CalFresh recipients.

AB 2153 (Arambula) - California Fruit and Vegetable Supplemental Benefits Expansion Program.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have established the "California Fruit and Vegetable Supplemental Benefit Expansion Program" and the "EBT Expansion Fund" in the State Treasury. Additionally, would have required CDSS to enroll authorized retailers to enable them to provide supplemental benefits to CalFresh recipients who purchase California-grown fresh fruits and vegetables.

AB 2300 (Kalra) - CalWORKs and CalFresh: work requirements.

Status: Chapter 588, Statutes of 2022

Expands the CalWORKs WTW exemptions for birthing, nonbirthing, foster, and adoptive parents; adds paid family leave benefits to be included as disability-based unearned

income; exempts a recipient receiving Paid Family Leave benefits from CalWORKs aid time limits; prohibits sanctions from being applied for failure or refusal to comply with CalWORKs work requirements if the anticipated work hours are unpredictable, as specified, or certain labor law protections were violated; and, requires that good cause exists for a CalFresh recipient who has voluntarily quit a job or reduced work hours based on the same circumstances that prohibit a CalWORKs recipient from being sanctioned.

AB 2403 (Bennett) - CalFresh: foster youth.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required CDSS to conduct a study to examine the effectiveness of CalFresh benefits for foster youth and provide a report to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2026.

AB 2491 (Cervantes) - Postsecondary education: electronic benefits transfer cards.

Status: This bill was amended substantially on April 19, 2022, such that it no longer fell within the jurisdiction of the Committee and it was single referred to the Higher Education Committee.

As referred to this committee, would have required, on or before August 1, 2023, convenience stores and bookstores located on campuses of CSU, CCC, any independent institution of higher education, and any private postsecondary educational institution to accept the use of EBT cards. Would have also requested that UC campuses follow the same practice.

AB 2652 (McCarty) - Public social services.

Status: This bill was amended substantially on April 6, 2022, such that it no longer fell within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

As referred to this committee, would have required the Student Aid Commission to establish a state-funded Food Support Pilot Program to provide California Food Assistance Program benefits to students who submit a California Dream Act application.

AB 2810 (Arambula) - Student nutrition: CalFresh: student eligibility: Federal Application for Student Aid data.

Status: Chapter 934, Statutes of 2022

Requires each CSU campus and each CCC district to use data from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid to identify and notify students who meet the income requirements for the CalFresh program. Additionally, encourages each UC campus and each private postsecondary education institution to conduct the same outreach.

SB 108 (Hurtado) - State Healthy Food Access Policy.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have declared that it is the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to access sufficient and healthy food, and would have required, no later than January 1, 2023, CDSS, in consultation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the Department of Conservation to submit a report to the Legislature that addresses key issues related to food security in California.

SB 364 (Skinner) - Pupil meals.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required CDSS to issue Better Out of School Time (BOOST) Nutrition EBT benefits to eligible students for each regularly scheduled summer break. Specifically, would have provided that a pupil is eligible for the BOOST Nutrition EBT program if they are in foster care or if they receive benefits under the Medi-Cal, CalFresh, or CalWORKs programs and would have required CDSS to set the amount of the daily BOOST Nutrition EBT benefit at the beginning of each school year in an amount that equals the reimbursement rate of a free breakfast under the federal School Breakfast Program and a free lunch under the National School Lunch Program. Further, would have required CDSS to report annually to the Legislature on outcomes of the BOOST Nutrition EBT program including, but not limited to, the number and percent of pupils receiving benefits and the total benefits issues in each county, and opportunities to improve program participation and program performance. Finally, would have provided that to the extent permitted by federal law, BOOST Nutrition EBT benefits would not be considered as income or resources in determining other public benefits.

SB 464 (Hurtado) - California Food Assistance Program: eligibility and benefits.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee but was not set for hearing.

Would have expanded eligibility for the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) to households that are ineligible for CalFresh benefits due solely to their immigration status. Additionally, would have required CDSS to use state funds appropriated for CFAP to provide nutritional benefits to those ineligible solely due to their immigration status, and, commencing January 1, 2023, would have eliminated the distinctions based on when the noncitizen applicant entered the country and would have eliminated the sponsorship and other listed criteria requirements for eligibility on a noncitizen who entered the country on or after August 22, 1996.

SB 609 (Hurtado) - CalFresh.

Status: Chapter 606, Statutes of 2021

Requires CDSS, upon an appropriation and to the extent permitted under federal law, to include adult education and career technical education among the list of programs that may allow a student to qualify for an exemption to the CalFresh student eligibility rule.

SB 641 (Skinner) - CalFresh for College Students Act.

Status: Chapter 874, Statutes of 2022

Requires CDSS to convene a workgroup to identify the necessary changes to improve access to CalFresh for college students, post specified information on their website to provide guidance on federal student eligibility exemptions, and submit a report to the Legislature with policy recommendations.

SB 907 (Pan) - Electronic benefits transfer systems: farmers' markets.

Status: Chapter 605, Statutes of 2022

Requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture, with support from CDSS to establish the "Local, Equitable Access to Food Program" a noncompetitive grant program designed to expand the use of EBT acceptance systems at California certified farmers' markets or tribe-operated farmer's markets on Indian reservations. Authorizes a certified farmers' market to use grant funds for any activities relating to expanding the use of EBT acceptance systems at farmers' markets, which may include, but is not limited to scaling and improving EBT processes at existing certified farmers' markets, establishing new certified farmers' markets that accept payment via EBT cards, operational services, technical assistance, and educational and outreach activities. Authorizes nonprofit organizations that receive a grant to use grant funds to assist certified farmers' markets in becoming authorized retailers under the CalFresh program, to request free point-of-sale terminals for certified farmers' markets, and to advise certified farmers' markets on best practices.

SB 950 (Archuleta) - CalFresh: income eligibility: basic allowance for housing.

Status: Chapter 877, Statutes of 2022

Requires CDSS to submit an annual waiver request to the USDA to exclude the Basic Allowance for Housing for active service members from countable income for purposes of CalFresh eligibility.

SB 1140 (Umberg) - Public social services: electronic benefits transfer cards.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have replaced reference to "cash" with "electronic" in provisions outlining the EBT system reporting and loss procedures. The changes of would have ensured that recipients of funding through EBT were reimbursed by CDSS in a timely manner if they are a victim of benefit theft.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1140 without my signature.

The bill would require the Department of Social Services to establish a process for recipients to report electronic theft of electronic benefits and requires the replacement of such benefits after the recipient reports their electronic benefits transfer card or personal identification number lost or stolen. This bill also authorizes the automatic replacement of benefits without the need for recipient reporting and verification.

The electronic theft of benefits affects families and individuals who need help the most, which is why the Department of Social Services has an existing process to replace CalFresh benefits when stolen from an electronic benefit card. I applaud the author for his efforts to expand this process to include the replacement of all benefits on an EBT card in a worthy effort to minimize the harm to recipients. However, this proposal would require millions of dollars in General Fund expenditures that were not accounted

for in the budget.

Protecting recipients and ensuring timely replacement of lost or stolen benefits is a priority for my Administration. The California Health and Human Services Agency and the Department of Social Services are working in partnership with counties and the advocate community on several initiatives to improve existing processes, including simplifying the process for reporting and requesting replacement benefits and removing overly burdensome requirements. We welcome the Legislature's continued partnership in efforts to reduce EBT theft and fraud.

With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.

The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

CalWORKs

AB 461 (Villapudua) - CalWORKs: welfare-to-work: self-employment.

Status: Chapter 582, Statutes of 2021

Requires, for the purpose of calculating the number of hours a recipient is participating in WTW activities pursuant to CalWORKs requirements, the number of hours for self-employment activities to be based solely on the number of hours the recipient is engaged in self-employment activities, as authorized.

AB 1004 (Calderon) - CalWORKs eligibility: income exemption: census.

Status: Chapter 99, Statutes of 2021

Deletes the restriction that any income or stipend paid by the United States Census Bureau, a governmental entity, or a nonprofit organization for temporary work related to the decennial census shall not be considered income for the CalWORKs program only if earned during the year preceding a decennial census and during the year of the decennial census. Further, clarifies that the provision is retroactive and shall apply to any income or stipend paid by the United States Census Bureau, a governmental entity, or a nonprofit organization for temporary work related to the most recent decennial census.

AB 1338 (Low) - Public social services programs: financial assistance demonstration and research programs.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required CDSS to develop a process to register any organization or entity that issues financial assistance through a program in the state; to make public on its website a list of those organizations or entities that have registered to issue financial assistance.

Would have also required an organization or entity issuing financial assistance to register that program with the department; to provide the department with specified information, including disclosing all funding sources of the program under which the financial assistance income is distributed; and, upon the conclusion of the program, to report to the department on the research outcomes. Additionally, would have excluded, to the extent permitted under federal law, financial assistance received by an individual from an organization or entity registered with the department from being considered as income or resources for purposes of determining eligibility and benefit amounts for CalWORKs and CalFresh.

AB 1728 (Robert Rivas) - CalWORKs: welfare-to-work: exemptions.

Status: Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have expanded the CalWORKs WTW exemptions for pregnant individuals and for parents and other relatives who are providing primary care for children from up to six months of age and under to up to two years of age and under. Further, would have required a county to provide a notice of action regarding an individual's exemption and how they may voluntarily participate in WTW activities.

AB 2052 (Quirk-Silva) - CalWORKs Child Education Act of 2022.

Status: Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have increased the maximum age until which a child in a CalWORKs assistance unit who is attending high school or the equivalent level of training on a full-time basis, as specified, may receive CalWORKs assistance from less than 19 years of age to less than 20 years of age.

AB 2230 (Gipson) - CalWORKs: temporary shelter and permanent housing benefits.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have required that the 16-day temporary shelter assistance for the CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program be distributed to a family in a one-time payment instead of in specified increments. Additionally would have provided that, for families that are eligible for homeless assistance as a direct result of fleeing domestic violence, a county may require participation in a homelessness avoidance case plan if the county has also provided a housing navigation caseworker who can assist with securing permanent housing and housing case management services.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2230 without my signature.

This bill requires families receiving temporary shelter assistance through the CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA) program to receive 16 days of temporary shelter assistance in the form of a one-time payment, instead of receiving 16 days of temporary shelter assistance in the form of an initial payment of three days that can be extended in one-week increments.

It is important to streamline administrative processes for programs and I appreciate the author's efforts to reduce barriers to CalWORKs homeless assistance. However, this bill would create approximately 10 million dollars in General Fund cost pressures not accounted for in the budget.

With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.

The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

AB 2277 (Reyes) - CalWORKs: victims of abuse.

Status: Chapter 693, Statutes of 2022

Requires, instead of allows, a county to waive a CalWORKs program requirement for a recipient who has been identified as a past or present victim of abuse when it has been determined that good cause exists.

AB 2300 (Kalra) - CalWORKs and CalFresh: work requirements.

Status: Chapter 588, Statutes of 2022

Expands the CalWORKs WTW exemptions for birthing, nonbirthing, foster, and adoptive parents; adds paid family leave benefits to be included as disability-based unearned income; exempts a recipient receiving Paid Family Leave benefits from CalWORKs aid time limits; prohibits sanctions from being applied for failure or refusal to comply with CalWORKs work requirements if the anticipated work hours are unpredictable, as specified, or certain labor law protections were violated; and, requires that good cause exists for a CalFresh recipient who has voluntarily quit a job or reduced work hours based on the same circumstances that prohibit a CalWORKs recipient from being sanctioned.

AB 2393 (Mayes) - CalWORKs Educational Opportunity and Attainment Program.

Status: Set to be heard by the Senate Governance and Finance Committee but the hearing was cancelled at the request of the author.

Would have provided issuance of the CalWORKs Educational Opportunity and Attainment Program award or stipend be treated in the same manner as the federal earned income refund, and would not be taken into account as income for purposes of determining eligibility for other social benefits or for personal income tax purposes. Further, would have authorized CDSS to establish a mechanism for issuing the award or stipend in the form of a tax refund payment.

SB 65 (Skinner) - Maternal care and services.

Status: Chapter 449, Statutes of 2021

Establishes the “California Momnibus Act” to monitor and take steps to prevent maternal mortality, including, amongst other things, establishing the “California Pregnancy-Associated Review Committee” to review all pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity, establishing a “Fetal and Mortality Review Committee”, convening a workgroup to examine the implementation of a Medi-Cal doula benefit, and removing the medical verification and county determination requirements for CalWORKs recipients who are pregnant and instead provide an exemption to any CalWORKs recipient who is pregnant.

SB 768 (Glazer) - CalWORKs: postsecondary education.

Status: Chapter 447, Statutes of 2022

Expands provisions of the existing CalWORKs program for standard payment for books and college supplies to allow students attending a private, nonprofit postsecondary educational institution to receive the benefit, changes the hourly participation rate to be based on instructional hours or academic units, and provides that a summer session shall be deemed to be an academic quarter for these purposes. Additionally, specifies that a CalWORKs recipient who receives the standard payment for books and college supplies shall not be required to participate in the orientation and appraisal to the WTW program more than once, unless the participant has not been receiving aid or supportive services for more than a year.

SB 996 (Kamlager) - CalWORKs eligibility.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have removed asset limits related to eligibility for the CalWORKs program and would have removed the definition of “unemployed parent,” for purposes of determining that a child is deprived of parental support and consequently eligible for CalWORKs benefits.

SB 1083 (Skinner) - CalWORKs: pregnancy and homeless assistance.

Status: Chapter 715, Statutes of 2022

Makes various changes to the CalWORKs homeless assistance (HA) program, including extending CalWORKs HA to families facing eviction, expanding the definition of perpetrator of domestic violence for the purposes of HA to include a roommate, and allowing a family

who is receiving CalWORKs HA benefits to remain eligible for HA following termination of CalWORKs participation due to income ineligibility.

SB 1140 (Umberg) - Public social services: electronic benefits transfer cards.

Status: *Vetoed by the Governor*

Would have replaced reference to "cash" with "electronic" in provisions outlining the EBT system reporting and loss procedures. The changes would have ensured that recipients of funding through EBT were reimbursed by CDSS in a timely manner if they are a victim of benefit theft.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1140 without my signature.

The bill would require the Department of Social Services to establish a process for recipients to report electronic theft of electronic benefits and requires the replacement of such benefits after the recipient reports their electronic benefits transfer card or personal identification number lost or stolen. This bill also authorizes the automatic replacement of benefits without the need for recipient reporting and verification.

The electronic theft of benefits affects families and individuals who need help the most, which is why the Department of Social Services has an existing process to replace CalFresh benefits when stolen from an electronic benefit card. I applaud the author for his efforts to expand this process to include the replacement of all benefits on an EBT card in a worthy effort to minimize the harm to recipients. However, this proposal would require millions of dollars in General Fund expenditures that were not accounted for in the budget.

Protecting recipients and ensuring timely replacement of lost or stolen benefits is a priority for my Administration. The California Health and Human Services Agency and the Department of Social Services are working in partnership with counties and the advocate community on several initiatives to improve existing processes, including simplifying the process for reporting and requesting replacement benefits and removing overly burdensome requirements. We welcome the Legislature's continued partnership in efforts to reduce EBT theft and fraud.

With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.

The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

Child Welfare Services and Foster Care

AB 31 (Lackey) - Office of the Child Protection Ombudsperson.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have established the “Office of the State Child Protection Ombudsperson” as an autonomous entity within CDSS for the purpose of reviewing individual casework, observing management structures, and suggesting systematic alteration of the child welfare system. Would have also required the Office of the State Child Protection Ombudsperson to perform specified duties, including, among other things, disseminating information on the rights of children and the services provided by the Office; investigating all child deaths caused by abuse or neglect if, at the time of a child’s death, there was an active investigation by the child welfare system to determine if the child was being abused or neglected or there was a report that the child was subject to abuse or neglect; and, would have provided the operation of a toll-free telephone hotline to receive complaints related to child welfare.

AB 226 (Ramos) - Children’s crisis psychiatric residential treatment facilities.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have reclassified children's crisis residential programs as children's crisis psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTFs) and would have transferred responsibility for licensing these facilities to DHCS rather than CDSS. Would have clarified that PRTFs are used only as an alternative to hospitalization and included inpatient psychiatric services to individuals under 21 years of age provided in a licensed PRTF as mental health services provided under the Medi-Cal program.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 226 without my signature.

This bill would eliminate Children's Crisis Residential Programs (CCRPs) under the purview of the Department of Social Services and instead create Children's Crisis Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (CCPRTFs) under the purview of the Department of Health Care Services, to provide intensive mental health care for children and youth, including those in foster care.

It is important that all California youth receive the mental health services and supports they need. My Administration has made it a priority to transform California's children

and youth behavioral health system into one in which all children and youth are routinely screened, supported, and served for emerging and existing behavioral health needs, and is working to implement transformative investments in the 2021-22 Budget that further this cause.

AB 226 presents implementation challenges that cannot be overlooked or easily overcome. First, the bill would eliminate CCRPs, a Medicaid State Plan service the state is obligated to provide, creating a gap in the continuum of care for children and youth. Second, the bill does not appropriately identify the roles of the Department of Health Care Services, the county Mental Health Plans, and the California Department of Public Health in federally certifying the proposed CCPRTF program. Finally, should CCPRTFs be authorized as a treatment option, it is critical to develop adequate safeguards so children are not in CCPRTFs any longer than necessary. These safeguards are not included in this bill.

My Administration looks forward to working with the Legislature and stakeholders before the Legislature reconvenes on a proposed solution that is in the best interest of all youth experiencing mental health crises.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

AB 260 (Stone) - Guardianships.

Status: Chapter 578, Statutes of 2021

Requires, in the event that a probate court investigation is waived, the investigation be waived for good cause; prohibits, if the probate court has made a child welfare referral for a child who is subject to a guardianship petition and who may have been abused or neglected, guardianship proceedings from being completed until an investigation is complete and a report has been provided to the juvenile court for review; expands eligibility for the state-funded Kinship-Guardian Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) Program to include youth who are placed with a relative caregiver who is appointed as the child's legal guardian; and, expands state-funded Kin-GAP eligibility to include NMDs who are under 21 years of age and who have had a kinship guardianship established.

AB 317 (Patterson) - Foster care.

Status: Chapter 293, Statutes of 2021

Clarifies the responsibilities of the Office of the Foster Care Ombudsperson (OFCO). Specifically, clarifies the requirement for the ombudsperson and OFCO to be independent and not, in the exercise of their discretion, be directly or indirectly controlled, supervised, or directed by the director of CDSS or any other official. Specifies that, in conducting an investigation, the ombudsperson is authorized to enter and inspect specified premises at any time, with or without prior notice or complaint, as specified, and observe proceedings and attend hearings, as specified. Prohibits the ombudsperson or the OFCO staff from being compelled to testify or be deposed, or to disclose specified records, in a judicial or administrative proceeding. Additionally clarifies that the ombudsperson and OFCO staff

have all immunities granted under existing law when exercising the investigative, complaint resolution, and technical assistance functions of the OFCO. Further, requires the ombudsperson to devote their entire time to their described duties and powers and prohibits the ombudsperson from being removed from office for exercising their independence and discretion in furtherance of those duties and powers.

AB 366 (Blanca Rubio) - Foster youth.

Status: Chapter 581, Statutes of 2021

Adopts changes to existing provisions on the placement of siblings within the child welfare system. Specifically, prohibits the physical capacity of the home from being the sole reason to deny placement of a sibling group if each child in the home has an age-appropriate place to sleep and there are no other safety risks.

AB 413 (Ting) - Foster youth: housing.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have appropriated \$8 million annually to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to administer the THP program, would have appropriated \$5 million annually to HCD to continue the housing navigator program, would have established the "THP-Plus Housing Supplement Program" to supplement the rates paid to THP-Plus providers in up to 11 counties, and would have expanded training for social workers and probation officers to include an overview of available housing resources, as specified.

AB 477 (Blanca Rubio) - Child abuse multidisciplinary personnel team: children's advocacy centers.

Status: Chapter 93, Statutes of 2021

Provides that if a county utilizes a child advocacy center to implement their local multidisciplinary response to investigate reports of child abuse or neglect, the child advocacy center may be included in the county child abuse multidisciplinary teams (MDT). Additionally, specifies that for a tribal youth investigation, a representative from the tribe may also be included in the county child abuse MDT.

AB 546 (Maienschein) - Dependent children: documents: housing.

Status: Chapter 519, Statutes of 2021

Expands the list of information, documents, and services that a county welfare department, at the last review hearing prior to a youth's 18th birthday and at every regularly scheduled hearing thereafter, as well as prior to the termination of dependency jurisdiction, must provide to the court, to include whether referrals to transitional housing have resulted in housing being secured, and if not, what, if any, different or additional referrals or assistance the department has provided to secure housing; the duration of the housing, and, if applicable, information, describing additional referrals, assistance, or services provided by entities other than the county welfare department that are intended to prevent the youth from becoming homeless if jurisdiction is terminated.

AB 549 (Gipson) - Nonminor dependents.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have allowed a juvenile court, until January 1, 2023, to hold a dispositional hearing to offer extended foster care to a youth if, as a result of court closures or delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the court was unable to hold a jurisdictional hearing prior to the youth turning 18 years of age, and the youth had been continuously subject to a detention order, and placement and care of the youth had been vested with the county child welfare department. Would have also required Judicial Council, no later than March 30, 2023, to report to the chairs of the human services and judiciary committees of the Senate and the Assembly on the total number of cases to which this bill would have applied, and the minimum, maximum and average number of days from the detention hearing to the jurisdictional hearing, if known.

AB 592 (Friedman) - Foster youth: transitional housing.

Status: Chapter 702, Statutes of 2021

Deletes the requirement that a host family be certified by a THP provider; expands the scope of a host family to include supervised transitional housing services; permits a host family to include certain approved placements and declares that those placements, when operating as a host family, do not require additional certification; expands the definition of a Supervised Independent Living Setting (SILS) to include a transitional housing unit in which a host family lives with an NMD participating in a THP program in certain settings; and, permits a county to elect to authorize a licensed THP provider to offer supportive services to assist the NMD in their SILS, as specified.

AB 640 (Cooley) - Extended foster care: eligibility redetermination.

Status: Chapter 622, Statutes of 2021

Permits a county to petition the juvenile court on behalf of certain NMDs to terminate dependency or transition jurisdiction over the youth and immediately re-establish jurisdiction in order to establish the NMD's eligibility for federal financial participation; expands the definition of a voluntary re-entry agreement to include an agreement between the NMD who has not signed a voluntary re-entry agreement after attaining 18 years of age and for whom a petition to terminate jurisdiction will be filed.

AB 656 (Carrillo) - Child welfare system: racial disparities.

Status: Set to be heard by the Assembly Human Services Committee but the hearing was postponed by the committee.

Would have required CDSS to establish a pilot program in at least five counties to address racial disparities in the child welfare system through the use of a blind removal strategy when deciding whether a child should be removed from their parent's home. Would have required specified demographic information about the child and the child's parents to be redacted from the case file in preparation for the removal decision. Would have provided that redacted identifying information be available for all other purposes throughout the local child welfare agency's involvement with the child, including evaluations, provision of services, and court proceedings. Additionally, would have required CDSS to conduct at least one evaluation of the participating counties' pilot programs and their impact and effectiveness after three years of implementation, and to submit the information from the

evaluation in a report to the Legislature that would have monitored the program's effect on the rate of Black, Native American, and Latinx children removed from their parents' home.

AB 670 (Calderon) - Child abuse or neglect: minor and nonminor dependent parents.

Status: Chapter 585, Statutes of 2021

Requires, when a report alleging abuse or neglect of a dependent of the juvenile court is made, the agency that received the report to notify the attorney representing the dependent within 36 hours; prohibits the court from declining to offer reunification services in certain instances where a minor or NMD parent is involved; and, requires a social worker or probation officer to use a strengths-based approach to supporting a minor or NMD parent in providing a safe and permanent home for their child.

AB 674 (Bennett) - Dependent children: documents.

Status: Chapter 524, Statutes of 2021

Expands the list of information, documents, and services that a county welfare department, at the last review hearing prior to a youth's 18th birthday, must report to the court regarding its progress in providing the youth written information notifying the minor or nonminor that they may be eligible to receive, and where they may apply for, CalFresh benefits.

AB 788 (Calderon) - Juveniles: reunification.

Status: Chapter 201, Statutes of 2021

Clarifies the meaning of "resisted" within current provisions that enable a juvenile dependency court to deny reunification services for a parent with a history of drug or alcohol abuse. Additionally, codifies a state appellate case, *re B.E. (2020) 46 Cal.App.5th 932*, which found a parent's history of drug relapse does not establish that they resisted a court-ordered treatment program.

AB 808 (Stone) - Children's Crisis Continuum Pilot Program.

Status: Set to be heard by the Senate Health Committee but the hearing was cancelled at the request of the author.

Would have proposed a number of changes to address the continuum of care needs of high-acuity foster youth. Specifically, would have established licensed specialized foster homes as residential facilities providing board, care, and supervision by a resource parent to serve foster youth with complex needs, would have required specialized foster homes to meet specific requirements, and would have placed additional responsibilities on the Joint Interagency Resolution Team. Would have also required CDSS, in collaboration with DHCS, to establish a five-year "Children's Crisis Continuum Pilot Program" for the purpose of developing treatment options needed to support California's commitment to eliminate the placement of foster youth with complex needs in out-of-state facilities.

AB 829 (Levine) - Foster children: immigration counsel.

Status: Chapter 528, Statutes of 2021

Requires a county to make best efforts to provide undocumented minors and NMDs under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court with access to immigration legal services before

exiting the child welfare system. Additionally, clarifies that access may be provided by the child welfare agency through outside legal service providers.

AB 841 (Cunningham) - Dependent children.

Status: Chapter 98, Statutes of 2021

Prohibits a child from being found to be within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court solely due to the failure of the child's parent or alleged parent to pursue court orders seeking custody of the child.

AB 873 (Ramos) - Child welfare services: Indian tribes.

Status: Chapter 284, Statutes of 2021

Requires CDSS, upon the request of a tribe, tribal organization, or tribal consortium, to enter into an agreement with a tribe regarding the care and custody of Indian children. Additionally, eliminates the tribal share of cost requirements for such agreements with CDSS.

AB 1006 (Blanca Rubio) - Foster care: social worker turnover workgroup.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required CDSS to convene a workgroup to examine the negative effects of high turnover of foster family agency social workers on foster youth and to identify measures to reduce foster family agency social worker turnover in order to improve permanency outcomes. Additionally, would have required the department to submit specific recommendations to the Legislature on or before December 31, 2022, on strategies to reduce turnover rates.

AB 1051 (Bennett) - Medi-Cal: specialty mental health services: foster youth.

Status: Chapter 402, Statutes of 2022

Requires a foster child's or probation-supervised youth's county of original jurisdiction to retain responsibility to arrange and provide specialty mental health services (SMHS) if placed out of the county of original jurisdiction in a community treatment facility, group home, or short-term residential therapeutic programs unless specified circumstances exist; enumerates contracting options and notification requirements for county mental health plans and SMHS providers; and requires DHCS and CDSS to collect and make available certain data related to the receipt of SMHS of foster children who are placed outside of their county of original jurisdiction.

AB 1055 (Ramos) - Foster youth: tribal pupils.

Status: Chapter 287, Statutes of 2021

Revises the definition of students in foster care for purposes of the Local Control Funding Formula. Additionally, clarifies that youth under a voluntary placement agreement are included for foster youth funding purposes, and extends specified education rights of foster youth to these students. Also eliminates the requirement that a dependent child of the court of an Indian tribe also meet the definition of a dependent child of a county court, ensuring tribal foster youth are granted the same rights as nontribal foster youth.

AB 1140 (Robert Rivas) - Foster care: rights.

Status: Chapter 297, Statutes of 2021

Specifies that children who are placed in residential facilities and homes by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) of the federal Department of Health and Human Services are included among those whom the Office of the State Foster Care Ombudsperson is responsible for investigating and attempting to resolve complaints, among other things. Also provides that residential facilities and foster homes for children in the custody of the ORR are included among those facilities which CDSS is required to ensure that afford children and NMDs in foster care their personal rights.

AB 1283 (Stone) - Resource families: hearings.

Status: Chapter 288, Statutes of 2021

Adopts changes to further facilitate implementation of Continuum of Care Reform. Specifically, amends provisions relating to criminal background checks for tribally approved homes, the appeals process for resource family applicants, and temporary exclusions from community care facilities.

AB 1615 (Ting) - Foster youth: housing.

Status: Set to be heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee but the hearing was cancelled at the request of the author

Would have expanded the maximum age youth would be eligible to receive housing navigation services and participation in the Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP-Plus) from until their 21st birthday, to include youth until they reach their 25th birthday, and would have lengthened the duration of THP-Plus from 24 to 36 months.

AB 1671 (Patterson) - California Ban on Scholarship Displacement for Foster Youth Act of 2022.

Status: Placed on the Assembly Inactive File.

Would have established the "California Ban on Scholarship Displacement for Foster Youth Act of 2022", which would have prohibited a higher education institution, beginning in the 2023-24 academic year, from reducing a foster youth's institutional gift aid offer or award if they had received a private scholarship, unless specified conditions were met.

AB 1683 (Davies) - Foster youth: savings accounts.

Status: Set to be heard by the Assemble Human Services Committee but the hearing was cancelled by the author.

Would have required CDSS to develop a program that would provide foster youth who are 12 years of age or older access to a savings account at a financial institution.

AB 1686 (Bryan) - Child welfare agencies: enforcement.

Status: Chapter 755, Statutes of 2022

Creates a presumption that payment of child support on behalf of a dependent child for whom reunification services with the parents are available is likely to pose a barrier to reunification.

AB 1735 (Bryan) - Foster care: rights.

Status: Chapter 405, Statutes of 2022

Clarifies, in the Foster Youth Bill of Rights, that youth have the right to be provided a copy of the Foster Youth Bill of Rights in their primary language. Adds to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights, the right of foster youth to receive a copy of the court report, case plan, and transition to independent living plan in the their primary language.

AB 1794 (Gipson) - Postadoption contact agreements: reinstatement of parental rights.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have revised postadoption contact agreements to include the status of the postadoptive sibling agreement and would have expanded instances when their birth parent's rights could be reinstated, provided it was in the child's best interest.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1794 without my signature.

This bill would provide several paths whereby a foster child or adopted Nonminor dependent may petition for the reinstatement of their biological parent's rights. This bill would additionally require counties to pursue a postadoption sibling contact agreement and facilitate a child and family team meeting in all adoption cases to determine whether the child would benefit from sibling contact.

While I understand the author's intent, there are existing legal pathways for foster children and legal adults to petition for reinstatement of their parents' rights, and additional work is needed to determine if those pathways are insufficient. Additionally, implementation of this bill would likely result in ongoing costs of tens of millions of dollars not accounted for in the budget.

With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.

The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

AB 1861 (Bryan) - Tax credit: hiring: foster care.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have authorized a tax credit to an eligible employer that employs an individual who spent time in foster care on or after reaching 13 years of age.

AB 1862 (Ramos) - Tribally Approved Homes Compensation Program.

Status: Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have established the "Tribally Approved Homes Compensation Program" under CDSS to provide tribes with funding, upon appropriation in the state budget, to recruit and approve homes for the purpose of foster or adoptive placement.

AB 1914 (Davies) - Resource family approval: training.

Status: Chapter 765, Statutes of 2022

Exempts resource family parents who meet certain requirements, such as having active and unrestricted licensure as a health care professional, from resource family approval (RFA) first aid training requirements. Further exempts resource family parents who have a certificate of completion for Basic Life Support for health care professionals, or Pediatric Advanced Life Support, or a higher standard of training that certifies cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), from RFA CPR training requirements, as specified.

AB 1950 (Ramos) - Child welfare: Indian children.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee but was not set for hearing.

Would have established the "Cal-ICWA County Accountability System Evaluation Program" to be administered by CDSS to measure a county's compliance with the ICWA and Cal-ICWA among their dependency cases involving an Indian child. Would have also required the department, on or before April 1, 2024, to convene a stakeholder workgroup to develop the case review system under the program.

AB 2090 (Arambula) - Child welfare: workload ratios: incentive payments.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required CDSS to provide incentive payments to counties meeting specified child welfare services targeted workload ratio recommendations. Would have required incentive payments to be separate from, and in addition to, funds allocated to counties for child welfare services from the Local Revenue Fund 2011.

AB 2159 (Bryan) - Reunification services.

Status: Chapter 691, Statutes of 2022

Prohibits a court from denying family reunification services to parents and guardians in custody prior to conviction and sentencing.

AB 2180 (Wicks) - The Children of Incarcerated Parents and Caregivers Task Force.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have established, until January 1, 2025, the "Task Force on the Children of Incarcerated Parents and Caregivers" (COIP Task Force) to be convened as a committee of the California Child Welfare Council. Would have required the COIP Task Force to submit a report that includes specific policy and fiscal recommendations to the Legislature that

consider the needs and service priorities for children of incarcerated parents and caregivers.

AB 2189 (Friedman) - Foster youth.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have authorized foster youth to remain in extended foster care beyond the age of 21 for the limited purpose of compliance with specified verifications by the county welfare department of the foster youth prior to termination of dependency, including, being screened for eligibility for all public benefits for which the NMD may be eligible, and for those who had not secured housing, verification that referrals to transitional housing, or assistance in securing other housing had been made. Would have required a county, if a county opts to provide a clothing allowance, to have also provided the clothing allowance to minors and NMDs, including those who may be pregnant, who would have been eligible to have foster care payments paid on their behalf but for the minor or NMD not residing in an approved placement.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2189 without my signature.

This bill would establish parameters by which a foster youth could remain in the foster care system beyond the age of 21.

It is important that foster youth receive the services to which they are entitled to help them successfully transition to independence. I applaud the author's intent in seeking to ensure those services are appropriately provided prior to the foster youth aging out of the program. However, extending foster care beyond the age of 21 raises policy and implementation considerations. Additionally, millions of dollars will be needed to successfully implement this policy, but were not included in the budget.

With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.

The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

AB 2259 (Berman) - Foster youth: substance use disorders.

Status: Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required CDSS, in collaboration with DHCS, and upon an appropriation, to establish a grant program to fund the development and implementation of evidence-based models and promising practices to serve foster youth with substance use disorders who are residing in family-based settings.

AB 2306 (Cooley) - Foster care.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have expanded the Independent Living Program to include current and former foster youth up to 22 years of age, subject to an appropriation and to federal approval. Would have further expanded the requirement for counties to provide stipends that assist youth with specified independent living needs to those who have exited the foster care system at or after 18 years of age, to include former foster youth up to 25 years of age.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2306 without my signature.

This bill would expand eligibility for the Independent Living Program (ILP) to current and former foster youth up to 22 years of age with intention to expand it further.

I commend the author's commitment to ensuring foster youth are successful in their transition to adulthood and the supports and services foster youth receive from ILP teach them vital skills critical to achieving greater-self sufficiency prior to, and after leaving, the foster care system. While an expanded ILP would benefit more transition-aged youth, millions of dollars would be needed to implement the proposed expansion, and funds were not provided in the budget for this purpose.

With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.

The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

AB 2309 (Friedman) - Guardianships.

Status: Chapter 780, Statutes of 2022

Requires, if a parent designates a specific person to be the child’s guardian, and the child and court do not object, the court to appoint the guardian, as specified, at any time during the juvenile court proceedings. Authorizes the juvenile court to establish a guardianship of any minor who is the subject of a petition filed for abuse and neglect, if the parent has advised the court that they are not interested in family maintenance or family reunification services. Requires CDSS to submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2025, that includes data on the number of children in the care and custody of all county placing agencies pursuant to a voluntary placement agreement, among other data elements.

AB 2403 (Bennett) - CalFresh: foster youth.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required CDSS to conduct a study to examine the effectiveness of CalFresh benefits for foster youth and provide a report to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2026.

AB 2466 (Cervantes) - Foster children.

Status: Chapter 967, Statutes of 2022

Prohibits, when placing foster children, the placing agency from declining to place a child with a resource family because of a resource family parent's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Removes the term "hard to place" children from statute, as specified.

AB 2475 (Quirk-Silva) - Pupil placement: special education: foster children: nonpublic, nonsectarian schools or agencies: school of origin.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have defined “school of origin” as it relates to foster youth with exceptional needs, and would have required the nonpublic, nonsectarian schools that serve them to include specified assurances related to a pupil who is a foster youth on the certification applications to CDE.

AB 2502 (Cervantes) - Foster care.

Status: Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have permitted the court to retain jurisdiction over a ward or NMD who reaches 21 years of age while a statewide or county-by-county state of emergency is in effect, for six months from the date of the declaration, as specified. Would have required a foster youth's transitional independent living plan to identify likely emergency situations they may experience, including loss of housing or employment, and to create a plan to address those potential emergencies.

AB 2579 (Bennett) - Child welfare: intensive family finding.

Status: Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required county placing agencies to implement model practices for intensive family funding and support for foster children, children detained but not adjudicated, and

candidates for foster care. Would have required counties to submit a plan to CDSS as a condition of receiving funding for these purposes.

AB 2595 (Jones-Sawyer) - Juveniles: dependency: jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

Status: Chapter 260, Statutes of 2022

Requires CDSS to update all regulations, all-county letters, and other instructions relating to the investigation of a minor who may be at risk of abuse, neglect, or abandonment to ensure that, when a social worker is investigating an alleged case of child abuse or neglect, a parent's or guardian's use or possession of cannabis is treated in the same manner as a parent's or guardian's use or possession of alcohol and legally prescribed medication.

AB 2628 (Reyes) - Dependency: victims of human trafficking.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have revised and renamed the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Program to the Human Trafficked Children Program to include victims of forced labor. Would have required CDSS to provide information to the Legislature regarding implementation of the program, and to provide additional data related to victims of forced labor.

AB 2654 (Lackey) - Gabriel's Law.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have reconvened the California State Child Death Review Council by removing the requirement for funds to be appropriated in order to be operative.

AB 2663 (Ramos) - Youth Acceptance Project.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have required CDSS to establish a five-year pilot program in up to five counties, to be known as the "Youth Acceptance Project" on or before July 1, 2023. Through the Youth Acceptance Project, services would have been provided to youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness and those under the care of the child welfare system or at risk of entering foster care. The goals of the program would have been to increase permanency outcomes for LGBTQ+ and gender-expansive youth and their families using developed therapeutic interventions.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2663 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), on or before July 1, 2023, to establish a five-year pilot program, known as the Youth Acceptance Project (YAP), for the purpose of increasing permanency outcomes for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus (LGBTQ+) and gender-expansive youth in up to five Counties.

I support the author's efforts to prevent youth homelessness by increasing acceptance

of LGBTQ+ children among parents/caregivers, foster parents, adoptive parents, extended family members, social workers and others involved in a child's care. However, this bill would require millions of dollars to successfully implement the proposed pilot program and these ongoing resources are not accounted for in the budget.

With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.

The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

AB 2665 (Carrillo) - Child welfare system: racial disparities.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have required, upon an appropriation, CDSS to establish a three-year pilot program, in up to five counties, for the purpose of addressing racial disparities in the child welfare system by requiring participating counties to utilize a blind removal strategy when deciding whether a child should be removed from the physical custody of their parent or guardian.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2665 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Social Services, on or before July 1, 2023, and upon appropriation by the Legislature, to establish a three-year pilot program for the purpose of addressing racial disparities in the child welfare system in up to five voluntary counties.

I support the author's efforts to address issues of racial disparity in the child welfare system. The proposed pilot project has the potential to inform policymakers as to how California can address disparities in child welfare removal decisions. However, further consideration needs to be given to how this proposal would affect compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act. Furthermore, this bill creates millions of dollars in General Fund cost pressures.

With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this

fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.

The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills that create a significant General Fund cost pressure, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

AB 2711 (Calderon) - Juvenile records access.

Status: Chapter 870, Statutes of 2022

Clarifies that an adoption case file, including a juvenile case file, may be inspected and copied by CDSS for the purpose of completing the required duties pursuant to the order setting aside an adoption.

AB 2786 (Stone) - Children's Crisis Continuum Pilot Program.

Status: Set to be heard by the Senate Health Committee but the hearing was postponed by the committee.

Would have expanded the Children's Crisis Continuum Pilot Program to provide mental health services in a family-based treatment setting to youth who meet the eligibility requirements for Medi-Cal. Would have required CDSS and DHCS to partner in the development and implementation of the expansion, upon appropriation in the budget.

AB 2866 (Cunningham) - Dependent children.

Status: Chapter 165, Statutes of 2022

Requires the juvenile court to determine by clear and convincing evidence whether reasonable reunification services have been offered or provided to a parent or legal guardian at the following hearings during the dependency proceedings: if a dependent child is not returned to their parent or legal guardian at the review hearing held six months after the initial dispositional hearing, but no later than twelve months after the date the child entered foster care; at the permanency hearing; and when determining whether adoption is the most appropriate plan for a minor.

AB 2945 (Arambula) - Foster care: enrichment activities.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have established, upon an appropriation, the "California Foster Youth Enrichment Grant Pilot Program" to be administered by CDSS. Would have allowed foster youth to use the grant money to participate in activities designed to enhance their skills, abilities, self-esteem, or overall well-being.

SB 234 (Wiener) - Transition Aged Youth Housing Program.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have established the "Transition Age Youth Housing Program" under the California Interagency Council on Homelessness for the purpose of creating housing for youth under 26 years of age, who have been removed from their home, are experiencing homelessness, or are under jurisdiction of the dependency court.

SB 354 (Skinner) - Foster youth: relative placement.

Status: Chapter 687, Statutes of 2021

Adopts changes to the criminal background check process during the resource family approval process for relatives of children placed in the child welfare system. Permits the court to authorize placement of children, once the placement has been fully vetted to ensure the child's safety, with relatives who may have a past conviction regardless of the status of any criminal exemption.

SB 384 (Cortese) - Juveniles: relative placement: family finding.

Status: Chapter 811, Statutes of 2022

Requires each county welfare and probation department (county) to notify CDSS whether it has adopted one of the suggested practices for family finding, as described, and how the practice has been implemented. Requires a county who has not adopted one of the suggested practices to provide a copy of its existing family finding policies and practices to CDSS. Includes "family finding" activities within the due diligence required of a social worker and probation officer when investigating the names and locations of relatives.

SB 512 (Min) - Public postsecondary education: support services for foster youth: Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support Program.

Status: Chapter 574, Statutes of 2021

Establishes expanded eligibility to the Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support Program to provide priority enrollment for current and former foster youth at UCs, CSUs, and CCCs. Also provides clarity on when services of the program can begin being administered to students, allowing financial assistance to be distributed before classes commence.

SB 528 (Jones) - Juveniles: health information summary.

Status: Chapter 812, Statutes of 2022

Clarifies that upon the approval by the juvenile court judicial officer of a request for authorization for the administration of psychotropic medication, the copy of the order provided to the foster youth's caregiver is required to include the last two pages of form JV-220(A) or the last two pages of JV-220(B) and all medication information sheets that were attached to form JV-220(A) or form JV-220(B), which are all referenced in Rule 5.640 of the California Rules of Court. Further clarifies, if the child changes placement, the social worker or probation officer is required to provide the new caregiver with these same documents.

SB 546 (Wilk) - Communications: lifeline universal service.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required the California Public Utilities Commission to codify the iFoster Pilot Program that provides a smartphone and monthly prepaid mobile phone service to specified foster youth within the existing California LifeLine program and would have provided that the commission may sunset the program upon meeting certain requirements.

SB 584 (Jones) - Resource Family Approval Program.

Status: Chapter 548, Statutes of 2021

Expands existing mandatory training for resource families and resource family applicants to include information on providing care and supervision to children who have been victims of child labor trafficking. Expands the topics on which a resource family applicant is required to complete during their 12 hours of pre-approval caregiver training to include information on providing care and supervision to victims of child labor trafficking, and, further, expands the definition of "information" to include child labor trafficking. Further, expands the requirement that counties ensure resource families providing care to children over the age of 10, within 12 months of approval as a resource family, attend training on certain topics including best practices and services for providing care and supervision to children who have been victims of child labor trafficking.

SB 739 (Cortese) - California Universal Basic Income for Transition-Age Youth pilot project.

Status: This bill was amended substantially on June 13, 2022, such that it no longer fell within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

As heard by this committee, would have required CDSS, beginning January 1, 2022, and until December 31, 2025, to administer the California Universal Basic Income for Transition-Age Youth pilot project with the goal of improving outcomes for foster youth. Additionally, would have required CDSS to provide a report to the Legislature detailing certain outcomes for program participants, models utilized, and measures specific to the objectives of the program.

SB 885 (Laird) - Community colleges: Current and former foster youth support: NextUp.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have codified the name change from the Cooperation Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support Program to "NextUp," would have removed the cap on the number of CCCs that may participate in the program, and would have streamlined the participation process.

SB 1054 (Ochoa Bogh) - Public social services: records: confidentiality: multidisciplinary personnel teams.

Status: Chapter 506, Statutes of 2022

Includes adult protective services personnel among the employees authorized to disclose information for the purpose of multidisciplinary teamwork related to abuse or neglect of a child, elder, or dependent adult.

SB 1071 (Umberg) - Public social services: administrative hearings: juvenile records access.

Status: Chapter 613, Statutes of 2022

Permits attorneys participating in administrative hearings to review and receive copies of juvenile case files, while also requiring the confidential information accessed to remain confidential and to be sealed at the conclusion of the hearing. Further, requires copies of the portions of the juvenile case file that the agency used in making its decision to take the action that is being appealed, to be attached to any position statement prepared for an administrative hearing. Additionally provides for certain records and information to be available for inspection by the applicant or recipient of public social services no later than five working days prior to the hearing.

SB 1085 (Kamlager) - Juveniles: dependency: jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

Status: Chapter 832, Statutes of 2022

Adds homelessness, indigence or other conditions of financial difficulty, including, but not limited to, poverty, the inability to provide or obtain clothing, home or property repair, or childcare to the list of factors that would not solely qualify a child to be found to be within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. States legislative intent that reasonable services to prevent juvenile court intervention or children being separated from their parents include services to alleviate a potential risk to a child based on conditions of financial difficulty.

SB 1090 (Hurtado) - Family Urgent Response System.

Status: Chapter 833, Statutes of 2022

Expands the definition of "current or former foster youth" for purposes of accessing the Family Urgent Response System to include youth who have exited foster care for any reason, including, but not limited to, emancipation, a child or youth who is the subject of a voluntary placement agreement, a child or youth who is placed in foster care and is the subject of a petition filed pursuant to reports of abuse and neglect, and a child or youth placed in California pursuant to the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.

SB 1091 (Hurtado) - Family finding and engagement.

Status: Set to be heard by the Assembly Appropriations Committee but the hearing was cancelled at the request of the author.

Would have required CDSS to use appropriated funds toward family finding and engagement techniques to find permanent families and relationships for foster children, focusing on those foster children under 17 years of age who have been in out-of-home foster care for 24 months or longer, who are not living with a relative, for whom reunification is no longer the case plan, and who have not been placed with a family who is in the process of adopting them or assuming guardianship over them.

SB 1300 (Durazo) - Foster youth: Supplemental Security Income.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have revised the requirements that county placing agencies must complete before, and upon, a foster youth who is receiving federal Supplemental Security Income payments reaches their 18th birthday.

SB 1413 (McGuire) - California Food Assistance Program: Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

Status: Set to be heard by the Assembly Human Services Committee but the hearing was cancelled by the author.

Would have required CDSS to provide nutrition benefits under the California Food Assistance Program to households that are ineligible for CalFresh benefits solely because they receive USDA Foods through the federal Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

Childcare and Early Childhood Education

AB 92 (Reyes) - Preschool and childcare and development services: family fees.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have made changes to the amount of the family fee collected for preschool and childcare and development services and prohibits providers from absorbing any reduction in pay due to waivers or reductions in family fees.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 92 without my signature.

This bill would make changes to the family fee schedule for the California State Preschool Program and child care and development services. This bill would change the current family fee schedule by prohibiting family fees from exceeding 1 percent of a family's monthly income and exempting families with an adjusted monthly income below 75 percent of the state median family income from paying a family fee.

The author's advocacy for California's working families is commendable. Like the author, expanding access to high quality early learning and care programs for babies and toddlers is a priority of my Administration. That's why the 2022 Budget Act included significant investments in preschool and childcare including family fee waivers for the 2022-23 fiscal year, an income threshold increase for the State preschool program from 85 percent to 100 percent of state median income, and funding to allow providers to stay open even if enrollment is down due to COVID-19.

While the intent of this bill is consistent with our previous budget actions, it creates costs in the tens of millions of dollars not currently accounted for in the state's fiscal plan. With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.

The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time

spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

AB 321 (Valladares) - Childcare services: enrollment priority.

Status: Chapter 903, Statutes of 2022

Adds, for part-day and full-day CSPP and federal and state subsidized child development services, a child from a family in which the primary home language is a language other than English as a priority for contracting agencies to give services. Families in this category would be given priority if there are no other families with a child with exceptional needs.

AB 393 (Reyes) - Early Childhood Development Act of 2020.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required CDSS to conduct an evaluation and submit to the Legislature a report about the emergency supports provided to childcare service centers during the COVID-19 pandemic including the department's response to specified needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the department's evaluation and recommendations on specified topics pertaining to future crises.

AB 479 (Grayson) - Family daycare homes: secondary licensees.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have added to the definition of "family daycare home" a facility that regularly provides care, protection, and supervision for 14 or fewer children in the licensee's home if the provider is a secondary licensee and added that a small daycare home or large family daycare home can also be where the licensee resides, if the family daycare provider is a secondary licensee. Further, would have provided that a person may apply to be a secondary licensee for a licensee and specified the licensure requirements for a secondary licensee.

AB 568 (Robert Rivas) - Early learning and care: complaints about discrimination and exclusion of children: Early Learning and Care Dashboard.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have established a complaint process related to discriminatory practices around the suspension or expulsion of a child in childcare. Also, would have required CDSS to create an "Early Learning and Care Dashboard" to collect data for publicly reporting specified race, and suspension and expulsion data regarding early learning and care programs. Additionally, would have required CDSS, in conjunction with the CDE, to establish the "Antibias Education Grant Program" to enable selected regional leads to offer training, coaching, and professional development to early learning and care staff.

AB 791 (Aguiar-Curry) - Childcare: trauma-informed childcare training.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee but was not set for hearing.

Would have required the Superintendent of Public Instruction to award and administer the Trauma-Informed Childcare Training Grants Program to local, regional, or local and regional quality improvement partnerships in order to expand access to trauma-informed childcare training across the state. Further, would have required the Trauma-Informed Childcare Training Grants Program to build on local consortia and other local early learning quality rating and improvement system work already in existence.

AB 865 (Quirk-Silva) - Childcare services: alternative payment programs: direct deposits: reserve funds.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have made changes to the California Child Care and Developmental Services Act regarding administrative and payment processes for APP agencies. Specifically, would have required APPs to reimburse childcare providers based on the maximum certified hours of need rather than actual hours of care provided, would have increased the percentage of funds APPs may retain as reserves, and would have authorized APPs and providers operating or providing services and contractors operating or providing services to use electronic forms and an electronic signature instead of a digital signature.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 865 without my signature.

This bill requires alternative payment programs (APP) to reimburse child care providers based on the maximum certified hours of need rather than attendance, and amends statute regarding verification of provider rates, APP fund reserves, and acceptable forms of signature.

In recognition of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child care providers, I have provided substantial funding over the last two budgets so providers are reimbursed based on enrollment, not on attendance. However, I cannot support a permanent extension of that policy at this time, as it will result in significant ongoing General Fund cost pressures in the tens of millions of dollars that were not included in the state's current spending plan.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

AB 932 (Levine) - Cradle-to-Career Grant Program.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have established a statewide "Cradle-to-Career Grant Program" within the Department of Community Services and Development to administer public and private funds at the local level to address child poverty and achievement gaps among California

children. Would have also required the department to convene and facilitate a workgroup to develop and establish common indicators and metrics to be applied to all Cradle-to-Career grant recipients.

AB 1294 (Rob Bonta) - Childcare: individualized county childcare subsidy plans.

Status: Chapter 497, Statutes of 2021

Extends the sunset for the individualized county childcare subsidy plan pilot project for Santa Clara County to July 1, 2023, consistent with other counties. Further, requires CDSS and CDE to review the existing individualized county childcare pilot programs and provide a report, as specified, to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature by June 30, 2022.

AB 1345 (Wicks) - Emergency services: licensed childcare providers.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required the Office of Emergency Services, in consultation with CDSS, by June 1, 2022, to establish best practices regarding the use, by licensed and license-exempt childcare providers, of funds provided to the state by the federal government in response to a Governor declared disaster or state of emergency. Would have required the best practices to specify, subject to any limitations imposed on the use of funds, how funds provided by the State, federal government, or Federal Emergency Management Agency will be allocated to licensed and license-exempt childcare providers, the timeline at which the funds will be distributed to licensed and license-exempt childcare providers, and any use for which the funds may be used, including for staying open or for reopening a childcare program during or after the declaration, to the extent permissible under federal and state law.

AB 1361 (Blanca Rubio) - Childcare and developmental services: preschool: expulsion and suspension: mental health services: reimbursement rates.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required early learning and care programs to use suspension or expulsion only as a last resort in responding to a child's behavior, required specific actions to be taken prior to disenrolling or suspending a child due to a behavior issue, and provided additional funding and requirements for early childhood mental health consultations. Specifically, would have placed new limits on suspension, expulsion, and disenrollment of children aged 0 to 5 years from contracted childcare programs, including the CSPP, general childcare and development centers, and family childcare home education network programs; would have required a program operator, prior to taking any action to exclude a child from a program due to the child's behavior, to complete a series of specified actions within a 180-day period; required family childcare home providers and other voucher programs to also refrain from exclusionary disciplinary measures, including removing children from group activities; and, authorized a provider to exclude a child only when there is a serious safety threat that cannot be reduced or eliminated. Further, would have also increased the adjustment factor for the reimbursement rate, from 1.05 to 1.1, to providers for early childhood mental health consultations in contracted childcare settings and specify parameters for a program to qualify for the increased rate. Additionally, would have

required CDSS to develop guidelines for expulsion and suspension from voucher programs, and authorized providers to use their administrative and support services funding to provide early childhood mental health consultation services, if they choose to do so. Finally, would have also required CDE and CDSS, beginning January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, to collect and report data regarding the number of times suspension or expulsion processes were undertaken, the outcomes achieved and key demographics of the children involved.

AB 1649 (Quirk-Silva) - Childcare services: alternative payment programs.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required the APP to reimburse childcare providers based upon the maximum certified hours of care instead of the actual days and hours of attendance, and would have required childcare providers authorized to provide services using alternative payments to submit to the APP a monthly attendance record or invoice for each child who received services. Further, would have added Legislative intent related to access to childcare and reimbursement to providers.

AB 2042 (Villapudua) - Child daycare facilities: anaphylactic policy.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have required CDSS, in consultation with CDE and representatives for pediatric physicians and other health care providers with expertise in treating children with anaphylaxis, parents of children with life-threatening allergies, child daycare administrators and personnel, to establish an anaphylactic policy that sets forth guidelines and procedures recommended for child daycare personnel to prevent a child from suffering from anaphylaxis and to be used during a medical emergency resulting from anaphylaxis. Would have specified that training on the anaphylactic policy shall be provided by CDSS's Community Care Licensing Division in consultation with Child Care Providers United, specified that the anaphylactic policy shall include a requirement that at least one volunteer who is trained in and can administer epinephrine to be present during operating hours, and that the procedure and treatment plan shall include a requirement for trained personnel to have access to, rather than carry, a stock of epinephrine in a secured place at the site.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2042 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), in consultation with the California Department of Education, the Child Care Providers United- California (CCPU) and others, to create two separate anaphylactic policies for child care center staff and family child care home staff. The policies would be established by July 1, 2024 and then be updated every three years and would include specified components, including training.

It is important for all children in a child care setting to be cared for by staff who are

trained to assist with their unique needs, including being able to recognize and respond to symptoms of anaphylaxis. While I appreciate the author's attention to this important matter, the bill before me creates a number of implementation concerns, including establishing multiple processes and expanding the memorandum of understanding between the State and the CCPU.

I encourage the Legislature to work with the Department of Social Services and the Emergency Medical Services Authority, who have the expertise to develop health and safety standards, on a workable alternative that is uniform and addresses these issues.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

AB 2131 (Mullin) - Child daycare facilities.

Status: Chapter 910, Statutes of 2022

Authorizes CDSS, in consultation with CDE, as specified, to implement the single childcare center license by an ACL or similar written instruction that shall have the same force and effect of regulations until regulations are adopted. Further, on January 1, 2024, repeals provisions referring to an optional toddler program for children between 18 and 36 months of age.

AB 2478 (Bennett) - Child Care and Development Services Act: Commission on Child Care Providers.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee but was not set for hearing.

Would have required CDSS to establish the "Commission on Child Care Providers" and would have required the commission to establish a grant program to award grants to childcare providers to hire more staff in order to increase the number of childcare slots.

AB 2806 (Blanca Rubio) - Childcare and developmental services: preschool: expulsion and suspension: mental health services: reimbursement rates.

Status: Chapter 915, Statutes of 2022

Revises and recasts provisions related to expulsion and suspension of a child from the CSPP and broadens the provisions to include general childcare and development programs and family childcare home education network programs. Specifically, requires early learning and care programs to use suspension or expulsion only as a last resort in responding to a child's behavior, requires specific actions to be taken prior to disenrolling or suspending a child due to a behavior issue, and provides additional requirements for early childhood mental health consultations. Additionally, requires CDE and CDSS, beginning July 1, 2030, and annually thereafter, to collect and report data regarding the number of times suspension or expulsion processes were undertaken, the outcomes achieved and key demographics of the children involved.

AB 2827 (Quirk-Silva) - Child daycare facilities.

Status: Chapter 916, Statutes of 2022

Requires CDSS, by January 1, 2024, to revise its regulations to permit children with exceptional needs who are enrolled in separate programs or classrooms from nondisabled children to use outdoor play spaces simultaneously with nondisabled children without first seeking a waiver of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations Section regarding outdoor space and to specify any health and safety requirements that shall be met when simultaneous use of outdoor play spaces occurs. Additionally, requires CDSS to implement these provisions by an ACL or similar instruction issued by January 1, 2024.

AB 2832 (Robert Rivas) - Whole Child Community Equity.

Status: Chapter 699, Statutes of 2022

Establishes the "End Racial and Economic Inequities in Childcare in California Initiative," which requires CDSS and CDE to develop a "Whole Child Equity Framework" (Framework) and a "Whole Child Community Equity Screening Tool" (Equity Tool) to provide the data needed to support the equitable distribution of resources and monitor progress on addressing racial and economic inequities. Additionally, requires CDSS, in consultation with CDE, to convene a workgroup to provide recommendations to CDSS for the development of the Framework, the Equity Tool, and recommended uses of the Equity Tool for historically underserved communities. Further, by January 1, 2025, requires CDSS to finalize and present the Framework, the Equity Tool and recommended uses of the Equity Tool to the Legislature and to publish the Equity Tool for public use.

SB 50 (Limón) - Early learning and care.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have expanded the age of children that state preschool contracting agencies that provide childcare and early learning services may serve, from three- and four-year olds, to children less than three years old but at least 18 months old. Further, would have specified that these provisions do not authorize local educational agencies operating a license-exempt CSPP classroom to serve children other than four-year-old children. Also, would have added that a family can be one who has a member of its household who is certified to receive benefits from specified means-tested government programs to the list of potential requirements for a family to be eligible for state subsidized child development services. Additionally, would have expanded from 12 months to 24 months, the period of a family's eligibility for ongoing services after establishing initial eligibility.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 50 without my signature.

This bill would make a child who is between 18 months and 3 years old eligible for the California State Preschool Program (CSPP) as long as the child meets all other eligibility requirements and would extend eligibility for federal and state subsidized child care

services to a family in which a member of that family has been certified as eligible to receive benefits from other means-tested government programs.

Expanding access to high quality early learning and care for babies and toddlers is a priority for my Administration. That's why I worked to make universal transitional kindergarten a reality, strengthen our paid family leave policies, and expand child care slots for children in California. Unfortunately, the timing of this bill is premature as it presupposes how the State Preschool Program will be modified to account for the implementation of universal transitional kindergarten. Next January, modifications will be proposed to the State Preschool Program in the 2022 Budget to align the program with the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care.

I appreciate the author's leadership on this issue and look forward to working with her on improving the State Preschool Program and serving more of California's youngest children.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

SB 246 (Leyva) - Early childhood education: reimbursement rates.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee but was not set for hearing.

Would have required CDSS to establish a single reimbursement rate for early learning and care programs, including variation for regional costs and quality adjustment factors. Would have, among other things, required CDSS to change the survey year from 2016 to 2018 to be used for determining the regional market rate ceiling; required CDSS to adopt an interim standard reimbursement rate based on the 2018 regional market rate survey commencing with the 2024–25 fiscal year; implement the new base rate, which would have been annually increased by the cost-of-living adjustment granted by the Legislature; would have added the crisis adjustment factor of 1.5 for children who are served in a county experiencing a county state of emergency, or any county during a statewide state of emergency; and, would have changed the adjustment factor for specified children.

SB 393 (Hurtado) - Migrant Childcare and Development Programs.

Status: Chapter 499, Statutes of 2021

Aligns the funding structure for the California Migrant Alternative Payment Program (CMAP) by shifting from the standard reimbursement rate to the regional market rate. Provides that payments made by the CMAP shall not exceed the applicable market rate ceiling. Additionally, requires the reimbursement for the CMAP to include the cost of childcare paid to childcare providers plus the administrative and support services costs of the CMAP and limits the total cost for administration and support services to 21% of the total contract amount.

SB 976 (Leyva) - Universal Preschool Act.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Education Committee but was not set for hearing.

Would have established the “Universal Preschool Act”, to provide a universal high-quality, free, inclusive, mixed-delivery, and cost-effective preschool to all three- and four-year old children, regardless of family income. Additionally, would have required the Superintendent of Public Instruction (Superintendent) and the Director of CDSS to convene a statewide coordination council to develop goals, guidelines, and best practices to be used at a local level to implement a universal preschool program. Further, would have required the Superintendent, in consultation with CDSS, to develop standards for implementation of high-quality preschool programs in all settings, and to administer all universal preschool programs.

SB 1047 (Limón) - Early learning and care.

Status: Chapter 923, Statutes of 2022

Expands, from 12 months to 24 months, the period of a family’s eligibility after establishing initial eligibility for CSPP and subsidized childcare and development programs, and expands priority for eligibility, enrollment, and services to include families who are certified to receive specified social services benefits.

SB 1481 (Becker) - Preschools, child daycare facilities, and Trustline providers: meals.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have established a free, universal meal program through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) by increasing state reimbursement to the existing federal meal program for children in the CSPP, general child care, and specified licensed-exempt care; expanded eligibility for free meals in these programs; and created a grant program to encourage expansion and participation in the CACFP in underserved communities. Specifically, would have required CDSS to provide funding for the following: a supplemental state meal reimbursement for state preschool facilities, child daycare facilities, and TrustLine providers for up to two daily meals per child served through the CACFP, at a rate equivalent to the state meal reimbursement for local educational agencies; establishing a free meal program for all children in state preschool facilities, child daycare facilities, and TrustLine providers, for reimbursement of up to two daily meals per child served through the CACFP at a rate equal to the difference between the highest federal rate of reimbursement, as specified; and grants to preschool facilities, child daycare facilities, and TrustLine providers to encourage their participation in and expansion of the CACFP. Additionally, would have increased the meal reimbursement rate for family daycare homes to cover 100% of the meals they serve children.

Community Care Licensing

AB 226 (Ramos) - Children's crisis psychiatric residential treatment facilities.

Status: *Vetoed by the Governor*

Would have reclassified children's crisis residential programs as children's crisis psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTFs) and would have transferred responsibility for licensing these facilities to DHCS rather than CDSS. Additionally, would have clarified that PRTFs are used only as an alternative to hospitalization and included inpatient psychiatric services to individuals under 21 years of age provided in a licensed PRTF as mental health services provided under the Medi-Cal program.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 226 without my signature.

This bill would eliminate Children's Crisis Residential Programs (CCRPs) under the purview of the Department of Social Services and instead create Children's Crisis Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (CCPRTFs) under the purview of the Department of Health Care Services, to provide intensive mental health care for children and youth, including those in foster care.

It is important that all California youth receive the mental health services and supports they need. My Administration has made it a priority to transform California's children and youth behavioral health system into one in which all children and youth are routinely screened, supported, and served for emerging and existing behavioral health needs, and is working to implement transformative investments in the 2021-22 Budget that further this cause.

AB 226 presents implementation challenges that cannot be overlooked or easily overcome. First, the bill would eliminate CCRPs, a Medicaid State Plan service the state is obligated to provide, creating a gap in the continuum of care for children and youth. Second, the bill does not appropriately identify the roles of the Department of Health Care Services, the county Mental Health Plans, and the California Department of Public Health in federally certifying the proposed CCPRTF program. Finally, should CCPRTFs be authorized as a treatment option, it is critical to develop adequate safeguards so children are not in CCPRTFs any longer than necessary. These safeguards are not included in this bill.

My Administration looks forward to working with the Legislature and stakeholders before the Legislature reconvenes on a proposed solution that is in the best interest of all youth experiencing mental health crises.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

AB 479 (Grayson) - Family daycare homes: secondary licensees.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have added to the definition of “family daycare home” a facility that regularly provides care, protection, and supervision for 14 or fewer children in the licensee’s home if the provider is a secondary licensee and added that a small daycare home or large family daycare home can also be where the licensee resides, if the family daycare provider is a secondary licensee. Further, would have provided that a person may apply to be a secondary licensee for a licensee and specified the licensure requirements for a secondary licensee.

AB 499 (Blanca Rubio) - Referral source for residential care facilities for the elderly: duties.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have recast the requirements on a placement agency for RCFEs to a referral source. Additionally, would have required a referral source to provide a senior or their representative with specified disclosures and privacy information before a compensated referral.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 499 without my signature.

This bill would recast existing law governing entities providing referrals to Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs) and impose certain requirements, including that the referral entity provide specified disclosures to a consumer or their representative, conduct background checks on referral sources, and carry liability insurance.

It is important that individuals have access to objective, independent, comprehensive, and free information about RCFEs. The Budget Act of 2022 appropriated \$1 million to the California Department of Aging to facilitate the display of this information on CallongTermCareCompare.org.

While I appreciate the author's attempts to enact consumer protections for older adults and their loved ones looking for a RCFE, I am concerned this bill may serve to reduce consumer options in instances where referral entities are only providing referrals to those RCFEs with whom they are contracted to receive compensation. While there is no cost to the consumer, there are equity concerns that the financial arrangements favor those facilities that can best afford remuneration fees, unfairly limiting consumer information, access, and choice.

This bill seeks to advance some important provisions and further conversation is needed to ensure consumers and their loved ones are provided with sufficient protections. I am directing the California Elder and Disability Justice Coordinating Council within the California Health and Human Services Agency to work with the author on a revised concept that includes stronger and more equitable consumer

protections.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

AB 665 (Eduardo Garcia) - Residential care facilities for the elderly: resident rights: internet access.

Status: Chapter 469, Statutes of 2021

Establishes a requirement for licensees of RCFEs with existing internet service to provide at least one internet access device that can support real-time interactive applications, is equipped with videoconferencing technology, and is dedicated for client or resident use. Clarifies that the specified internet access device must be provided in a manner that allows a resident to access it for discussion of personal or confidential information with a reasonable level of personal privacy and that permits shared access among residents in the facility during reasonable hours.

AB 677 (Holden) - Care facilities: criminal background checks.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required CDSS to convene a working group no later than July 1, 2022, to make recommendations and propose revised regulations to change the criminal record exemption process in order to expedite the process for individuals who seek licensure from CDSS, as specified, and who have a criminal conviction; would have prohibited CDSS from requiring certain individuals subject to the criminal background check process to self-disclose their criminal history information; and, would have required CDSS to annually post on its internet website certain data related to criminal record clearance and exemption approvals and denials.

AB 1300 (Voepel) - Residential care facilities for the elderly: electronic monitoring.

Status: Set to be heard by the Assembly Human Services Committee but the hearing was postponed by the committee.

Would have established the "Electronic Monitoring in Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly Act" to authorize the use of electronic monitoring devices within RCFEs. The Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly Act would have specifically allowed for electronic monitoring devices to be placed within a resident's room or in certain areas of a facility, at the resident's request for personal use. Would have clarified that these devices would require notification and consent from the resident and the resident's roommate before installation.

AB 1720 (Holden) - Care facilities: criminal background checks.

Status: Chapter 581, Statutes of 2022

Authorizes CDSS to grant a simplified criminal record exemption to an applicant seeking a license or position within various community care facilities, as specified, and removes the

requirement for those applicants to sign a declaration under penalty of perjury before the receipt of Live Scan results regarding prior criminal convictions.

AB 2119 (Flora) - Veterans: Medical Foster Home Program.

Status: Chapter 381, Statutes of 2022

Authorizes CDSS to establish a program to issue licenses for medical foster homes for veterans as allowed under the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and delineates the administrative requirements for the program.

AB 2619 (Patterson) - Residential care facilities for the elderly: capacity.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee but was not set for hearing.

Would have added provisions allowing RCFEs located in a residential zone, if the home has sufficient square footage and meets other specific requirements, to serve more than six people.

SB 707 (Cortese) - Continuing care contracts.

Status: Chapter 538, Statutes of 2022

Renames the Continuing Care Provider Fee Fund as the Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) Oversight Fund, makes changes to the requirements of the fund and requires CDSS to make the fund budget available to the public. Additionally, adds to the authority of CDSS to request certain financial documentation from a CCRC and requires those documents be shared with prospective residents in certain circumstances.

SB 1093 (Hurtado) - Community care facilities: criminal background checks.

Status: Chapter 614, Statutes of 2022

Removes the requirement that a community care facility submit a written request to CDSS to permit the transfer of a current criminal record clearance to another facility and instead permits a transfer to be made using a secure online portal.

Congregate Care

AB 226 (Ramos) - Children's crisis psychiatric residential treatment facilities.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have reclassified children's crisis residential programs as children's crisis psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTFs) and would have transferred responsibility for licensing these facilities to DHCS rather than CDSS. Additionally, would have clarified that PRTFs are used only as an alternative to hospitalization and included inpatient psychiatric services to individuals under 21 years of age provided in a licensed PRTF as mental health services provided under the Medi-Cal program.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 226 without my signature.

This bill would eliminate Children's Crisis Residential Programs (CCRPs) under the

purview of the Department of Social Services and instead create Children's Crisis Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (CCPRTFs) under the purview of the Department of Health Care Services, to provide intensive mental health care for children and youth, including those in foster care.

It is important that all California youth receive the mental health services and supports they need. My Administration has made it a priority to transform California's children and youth behavioral health system into one in which all children and youth are routinely screened, supported, and served for emerging and existing behavioral health needs, and is working to implement transformative investments in the 2021-22 Budget that further this cause.

AB 226 presents implementation challenges that cannot be overlooked or easily overcome. First, the bill would eliminate CCRPs, a Medicaid State Plan service the state is obligated to provide, creating a gap in the continuum of care for children and youth. Second, the bill does not appropriately identify the roles of the Department of Health Care Services, the county Mental Health Plans, and the California Department of Public Health in federally certifying the proposed CCPRTF program. Finally, should CCPRTFs be authorized as a treatment option, it is critical to develop adequate safeguards so children are not in CCPRTFs any longer than necessary. These safeguards are not included in this bill.

My Administration looks forward to working with the Legislature and stakeholders before the Legislature reconvenes on a proposed solution that is in the best interest of all youth experiencing mental health crises.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

AB 499 (Blanca Rubio) - Referral source for residential care facilities for the elderly: duties.

Status: *Vetoed by the Governor*

Would have recast the requirements on a placement agency for RCFEs to a referral source. Additionally, would have required a referral source to provide a senior or their representative with specified disclosures and privacy information before a compensated referral.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 499 without my signature.

This bill would recast existing law governing entities providing referrals to Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs) and impose certain requirements, including that the referral entity provide specified disclosures to a consumer or their representative,

conduct background checks on referral sources, and carry liability insurance.

It is important that individuals have access to objective, independent, comprehensive, and free information about RCFEs. The Budget Act of 2022 appropriated \$1 million to the California Department of Aging to facilitate the display of this information on CallongTermCareCompare.org.

While I appreciate the author's attempts to enact consumer protections for older adults and their loved ones looking for a RCFE, I am concerned this bill may serve to reduce consumer options in instances where referral entities are only providing referrals to those RCFEs with whom they are contracted to receive compensation. While there is no cost to the consumer, there are equity concerns that the financial arrangements favor those facilities that can best afford remuneration fees, unfairly limiting consumer information, access, and choice.

This bill seeks to advance some important provisions and further conversation is needed to ensure consumers and their loved ones are provided with sufficient protections. I am directing the California Elder and Disability Justice Coordinating Council within the California Health and Human Services Agency to work with the author on a revised concept that includes stronger and more equitable consumer protections.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

AB 665 (Eduardo Garcia) - Residential care facilities for the elderly: resident rights: internet access.

Status: Chapter 469, Statutes of 2021

Establishes a requirement for licensees of RCFEs with existing internet service to provide at least one internet access device that can support real-time interactive applications, is equipped with videoconferencing technology, and is dedicated for client or resident use. Clarifies that the specified internet access device must be provided in a manner that allows a resident to access it for discussion of personal or confidential information with a reasonable level of personal privacy and that permits shared access among residents in the facility during reasonable hours.

AB 677 (Holden) - Care facilities: criminal background checks.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required CDSS to convene a working group no later than July 1, 2022, to make recommendations and propose revised regulations to change the criminal record exemption process in order to expedite the process for individuals who seek licensure from CDSS, as specified, and who have a criminal conviction; would have prohibited CDSS from requiring certain individuals subject to the criminal background check process to self-

disclose their criminal history information; and, would have required CDSS to annually post on its internet website certain data related to criminal record clearance and exemption approvals and denials.

AB 895 (Holden) - Residential care facilities: conditions

Status: This bill was amended substantially on January 3, 2022, such that it no longer fell within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

As referred to this committee, would have required RCFEs and other residential facilities to provide a written notice to a prospective resident, or their representative, that includes the contact information for the local long-term care ombudsman, and links to specified websites with information regarding licensing and quality of care.

AB 1300 (Voepel) - Residential care facilities for the elderly: electronic monitoring.

Status: Set to be heard by the Assembly Human Services Committee but the hearing was postponed by the committee.

Would have established the "Electronic Monitoring in Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly Act" to authorize the use of electronic monitoring devices within RCFEs. The Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly Act would have specifically allowed for electronic monitoring devices to be placed within a resident's room or in certain areas of a facility, at the resident's request for personal use. Would have clarified that these devices would require notification and consent from the resident and the resident's roommate before installation.

AB 2119 (Flora) - Veterans: Medical Foster Home Program.

Status: Chapter 381, Statutes of 2022

Authorizes CDSS to establish a program to issue licenses for medical foster homes for veterans as allowed under the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and delineates the administrative requirements for the program.

AB 2619 (Patterson) - Residential care facilities for the elderly: capacity.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee but was not set for hearing.

Would have added provisions allowing RCFEs located in a residential zone, if the home has sufficient square footage and meets other specific requirements, to serve more than six people.

SB 707 (Cortese) - Continuing care contracts.

Status: Chapter 538, Statutes of 2022

Renames the Continuing Care Provider Fee Fund as the Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) Oversight Fund, makes changes to the requirements of the fund and requires CDSS to make the fund budget available to the public. Additionally, adds to the authority of CDSS to request certain financial documentation from a CCRC and requires those documents be shared with prospective residents in certain circumstances.

SB 1093 (Hurtado) - Community care facilities: criminal background checks.

Status: Chapter 614, Statutes of 2022

Removes the requirement that a community care facility submit a written request to CDSS to permit the transfer of a current criminal record clearance to another facility and instead permits a transfer to be made using a secure online portal.

Developmental Services

AB 445 (Calderon) - Developmental services: information collection.

Status: Chapter 149, Statutes of 2021

Removes the requirement that parents' social security numbers are collected by a regional center for each new case and also collected at each review of all regional center clients in out-of-home placement.

AB 813 (Mullin) - Developmental services: service outcome pilot project.

Status: Referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee but the hearing was cancelled by the author.

Would have required DDS to establish a pilot project to develop metrics and methods of data collection to evaluate the outcomes of services authorized by regional centers and provided through an approved vendor. Specifically, would have required DDS to, among other things, identify up to four types of services provided to consumers by regional centers for which metrics and methods of data collection will be developed in the pilot project; develop metrics and methods of data collection that evaluate, at a minimum, outcomes related to method of service delivery, service quality, and consumer and family satisfaction with provided services; develop clear definitions of services and their specifications to allow persons with developmental disabilities to achieve and maintain access to their chosen ways of life; and, use service definition and specification methods to allow an individual user's race, culture, language, gender identification, and sexual orientation to be respected when using services to access their chosen way of life.

AB 982 (Frazier) - State Department of Developmental Services: state institutions.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee but was not set for hearing.

Would have changed the requirement for the list that DDS must send to the Department of Veterans Affairs from including all persons who have been patients in a state institution within the jurisdiction of DDS for at least six months to all persons who have been patients in a state institution within the jurisdiction of DDS for least five months.

AB 1334 (Frazier) - State Department of Developmental Services: supplemental budget information.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee but was not set for hearing.

Would have changed the requirement for DDS to report and post specified supplemental budget information regarding each developmental center and each regional center, from occurring by February 1 each year to occurring by February 5 each year.

AB 1335 (Frazier) - Regional centers: annual community placement plans.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee but was not set for hearing.

Would have changed the requirement for DDS to provide specified information on efforts to serve consumers with challenging service needs to the fiscal and appropriate policy committees of the Legislature, and to the contractor for regional center clients' rights advocacy services, from occurring annually on April 1 to occurring annually on April 5.

AB 1957 (Wilson) - Disparities within the developmental system.

Status: Chapter 314, Statutes of 2022

Updates the existing data reporting requirements that DDS and regional centers are required to compile and report annually regarding the purchase of services for individuals with developmental disabilities to include the preferred language spoken by the individual with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) instead of the primary language spoken by the individual with I/DD; the number of instances when the written copy of the Individual Program Plan was provided at the request of the individual with I/DD, the consumer's parents, legal guardian or conservator, or authorized representative, in a threshold language, if that written copy was provided more than 45 days after the request; and the numbers, percentages, and total and per capita expenditure and authorization amounts, according to race or ethnicity and preferred language, for specified service types.

AB 2634 (Davies) - Developmental disabilities.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee but was not set for hearing.

Would have required CDSS and DDS to provide to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee specified data related to children who are consumers of regional center services and who are receiving Adoption Assistance Program, Approved Relative Caregiver Funding Program, Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program, or Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care benefits three times a year instead of on a semiannual basis. Further, would have required the data to be submitted on March 1, July 1, and November 1 of each year.

SB 639 (Durazo) - Minimum wages: persons with disabilities.

Status: Chapter 339, Statutes of 2021

Requires the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to develop and implement a multiyear phaseout plan, by January 1, 2023, to eliminate the use of the subminimum wage certificate program, which authorizes employers to pay less than minimum wage for employees with physical or mental disabilities. Further, commencing January 1, 2025, or when the multiyear phaseout plan is released, whichever is later, prohibits an employer from paying any employee with a disability less than the applicable minimum wage.

SB 870 (Portantino) - Developmental services.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have increased the maximum age of onset for a developmental disability from 18 years of age to 22 years of age for the purposes of eligibility for services under DDS.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 870 without my signature.

This bill would, effective January 1, 2023, expand eligibility for services under the Department of Developmental Services by increasing the maximum age of onset for a developmental disability from prior to 18 years of age to prior to 22 years of age.

While I support the concept of extending the comprehensive services and supports available through the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act to individuals whose disabilities originated before age 22, such an expansion of eligibility would require regional center and provider staff to be trained, and additional community resources would need to be developed, to serve the expanded consumer population. The planning and preparation for this expansion cannot be completed by January 1, 2023. Furthermore, the proposed expansion would require tens of millions of General Fund dollars to implement and funds were not included in the budget for this purpose.

With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.

The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

SB 1092 (Hurtado) - Developmental services: individual program plan: fair hearings.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have made several changes to the fair hearing process for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to enforce their right to services and supports under the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act. Specifically, would have made changes to the development of a consumer's individual program plan (IPP) by requiring the planning team to include at least one regional center representative, requiring that the IPP be made in a program planning meeting with the consumer or the consumer's representative, and requiring the consumer to be allowed to attend a meeting to determine the services and supports to be purchased. Further, would have required the informal dispute mediation process to be overseen by CDSS and allowed either the regional center or the claimant to withdraw from the mediation after the conclusion of the first

mediation session. Additionally, would have required DDS, beginning July 1, 2024, to contract with CDSS for the provision of independent hearing officers and fair hearings.

Guaranteed Income

AB 1941 (Salas) - State Supplementary Program for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled: aid amount.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have provided a \$600 monthly supplement to SSP grant recipients in any calendar year following a surplus in the state budget, subject to an appropriation in the annual budget act.

SB 1066 (Hurtado) - California Farmworkers Drought Resilience Pilot Project.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have established the "California Farmworkers Drought Resilience Pilot Project" to provide supplemental pay in the form of cash assistance to households in which one member of the household is a farmworker to help meet their basic needs. Specifically, would have required CDSS to implement the pilot project by awarding grants to eligible entities for the purpose of issuing supplemental pay to eligible households. Further, would have provided that, notwithstanding any other law, supplemental pay received by an eligible household shall not be considered income or resources for purposes of determining the household's eligibility for benefits or assistance, under any state or local benefit or assistance program. Additionally, would have required work with at least one independent, research-based institution to prepare an evaluation report to the Legislature, by December 31, 2026, that includes specified demographic information and outcome measures.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1066 without my signature.

This bill would, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, require the California Department of Social Services to establish and administer the California Farmworkers Drought Resilience Pilot Project for the purpose of providing guaranteed income to Farmworkers.

I applaud the author's consideration of how to best ensure farmworkers have access to resources sufficient to provide for basic needs. In the 2021-22 State Budget, California invested \$35 million for the California Department of Social Services to create and administer a guaranteed income pilot program over five years. However, this proposal would require millions of dollars more to implement and funds were not included in the budget for this purpose.

With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this

fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.

The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

SB 1341 (Cortese) - Homeless pupils: California Success, Opportunity, and Academic Resilience (SOAR) Guaranteed Income Program.

Status: Failed passage in the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

Would have required CDSS, subject to an appropriation, to establish and administer the “California Success, Opportunity, and Academic Resilience Guaranteed Income Program” (Program) to provide a guaranteed income of \$1,000 per month for five months, from April 1, 2023, to August 1, 2023, to specified students in grade 12 experiencing homelessness. Further, would have provided that any amount received by an individual as an award through the Program shall not be considered income or resources for purposes of determining the individual’s, or any member of their household’s, eligibility for benefits or assistance, or the amount or extent of benefits or assistance, under any state or local means-tested program. Additionally, stated that any amount received as an award would not be considered as gross income for purposes of taxable income or considered as earned income for the purposes of eligibility for the California Earned Income Tax Credit or the young child tax credit. Lastly, would have required CDSS to work with at least one independent, research-based institution to identify existing, and establish new, Program outcome measurements to inform an evaluation report and to submit the evaluation report to the Legislature upon conclusion of the Program.

Homelessness

AB 977 (Gabriel) - Homelessness prevention programs: Homeless Management Information System.

Status: Chapter 397, Statutes of 2021

Requires a grantee or entity operating state homelessness programs to enter collected data into its local Homeless Management Information System no later than July 1, 2022, and requires all CoCs to provide collected data elements to the Homeless Data Integration System. Expands the goals of the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to include collecting, compiling, and making available to the public certain financial data related to state-funded homelessness programs.

AB 2569 (Nguyen) - Department of Homelessness Prevention, Outreach, and Support.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required CalHHS to convene a working group to determine the best approach to creating a "Department of Homelessness Prevention, Outreach, and Support" to consolidate all state funding for services for homeless individuals and services to prevent homelessness in one new department.

AB 2663 (Ramos) - Youth Acceptance Project.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have required CDSS to establish a five-year pilot program in up to five counties, to be known as the "Youth Acceptance Project" on or before July 1, 2023. Through the Youth Acceptance Project, services would have been provided to youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness and those under the care of the child welfare system or at risk of entering foster care. The goals of the program would have been to increase permanency outcomes for LGBTQ+ and gender-expansive youth and their families using developed therapeutic interventions.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2663 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), on or before July 1, 2023, to establish a five-year pilot program, known as the Youth Acceptance Project (YAP), for the purpose of increasing permanency outcomes for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus (LGBTQ+) and gender-expansive youth in up to five Counties.

I support the author's efforts to prevent youth homelessness by increasing acceptance of LGBTQ+ children among parents/caregivers, foster parents, adoptive parents, extended family members, social workers and others involved in a child's care. However, this bill would require millions of dollars to successfully implement the proposed pilot program and these ongoing resources are not accounted for in the budget.

With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs. The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

SB 678 (Rubio) - Unaccompanied Women Experiencing Homelessness Act of 2021.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have established “unaccompanied women” as a sub-population of the state’s homeless population and would have required the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC) to define outcome measures and gather data toward goals to prevent and end homelessness among unaccompanied women in California. Would have required the HCFC to develop and collect data on county-level and statewide measures, including, but not limited to, the number of unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness in California and their family unit status, race, gender, age, geography, sexual orientation, and whether they have been a victim of domestic violence or intimate partner violence and would have required HCFC to include this data on unaccompanied women in the Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS), within 90 days of HDIS being operationalized. Further, would have also required the HCFC to coordinate with unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness, CDSS, and other appropriate state and county agencies to provide technical assistance and program development support to increase capacity among new and existing service providers to best meet statewide needs.

SB 914 (Rubio) - HELP Act.

Status: Chapter 665, Statutes of 2022

Establishes the “Homeless Equity for Left Behind Populations Act,” which requires cities, counties, and CoCs receiving state funding to include unaccompanied homeless women, and in particular domestic violence survivors, within the vulnerable populations that receive homeless services and housing delivery. Specifically, requires cities, counties, and CoCs receiving state funding to address homelessness on or after January 1, 2024, to include families, people fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, and unaccompanied women within the vulnerable populations for whom specific system supports are developed to maintain homeless services and housing delivery; and develop analyses and goals with victim service providers to address the specific needs of this population with data measures not included within the Homeless Management Information System. Further, requires the California Interagency Council on Homelessness to set and measure progress toward goals to prevent and end homelessness among domestic violence survivors and their children and among unaccompanied women in California.

SB 1421 (Jones) - California Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Status: Chapter 671, Statutes of 2022

Adds a current or formerly homeless individual with a developmental disability to the membership of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness advisory committee.

In-Home Supportive Services and Home Care Services

AB 344 (Flora) - In-home supportive services: provider orientation.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee but was not set for hearing.

Would have required a county to retain an In-Home Supportive Services provider's orientation paperwork for a period of seven years and would have deleted the requirement for this paperwork to be retained indefinitely.

AB 2069 (Villapudua) - California Caregivers Training Scholarship Act.

Status: This bill was amended substantially on April 5, 2022, such that it no longer fell within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

As referred to this committee, would have created the "California Caregivers Training Scholarship Act" to incentivize enrollment in home care aide or home health aide training programs.

AB 2262 (Calderon) - In-home supportive services: needs assessment.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required CDSS to establish an alternative annual reassessment process for a recipient of the in-home supportive services program who meets specific criteria. Additionally, would have required CDSS to provide implementation instructions to counties on the alternative assessment process on or before October 1, 2023.

AB 2813 (Santiago) - Long-Term Services and Supports Benefit Program.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Aging and Long Term Care Committee but was not set for hearing.

Would have required the Department of Aging to establish, in conjunction with an unspecified board operating under the State Treasurer, a long-term services and supports benefits program with the purpose of providing supportive care to aging Californians and those with physical disabilities. Would have also established the "Long-Term Services and Supports Benefit Program Fund" and would have required the department to administer the program using proceeds from the fund.

Miscellaneous

AB 46 (Luz Rivas) - California Youth Empowerment Act.

Status: Chapter 660, Statutes of 2021

Establishes the "California Youth Empowerment Act" to provide meaningful opportunities for actual civic engagement to improve the quality of life for California's disconnected and disadvantaged youth. The California Youth Empowerment Act establishes the "California Youth Empowerment Commission," an advisory commission composed of 13 voting members that represent the geographical, racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, cultural, physical, and educational diversity of California's youth. Requires the Commission to formally advise and make recommendations to the Legislature, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Governor on specific legislative and fiscal issues affecting youth.

AB 1538 (Quirk) - Public Social Services: records: tax return information.

While originally referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee, this bill did not fall within the jurisdiction of this Committee.

AB 1737 (Holden) - Children's camps: safety.

Status: Placed on the Assembly Inactive File.

Would have required CDSS, in consultation with the California Department of Public Health, CDE, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Department of Industrial Relations, parent advocate organizations, and other stakeholders to provide a report to the Legislature that includes information regarding topics related to the health and safety of children attending children's camps and recommendations for developing and issuing requirements for the regulatory oversight of children's camps.

AB 2590 (Arambula) - Social worker training.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required CDSS to establish a pilot program to develop a mentorship program for individuals in the field of social work. Specifically, would have provided that the mentoring program match social workers who have been in the profession for at least 10 years with social workers who have graduated in the past six years, who are in the process of transitioning from one field of practice to another, or who have moved to a new geographical area of work.

AB 2602 (Salas) - Child health and safety: "Have a Heart, Be a Star, Help Our Kids" license plate program.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee but was not set for hearing.

Would have made changes to the Department of Motor Vehicles "Have a Heart, Be a Star, Help Our Kids" special license plate program, including redistribution of plate fees and imposition of additional fees for issuance, renewal, replacement, and transfer.

AB 2881 (Berman) - Public postsecondary education: students with dependent children.

While originally referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee, this bill did not fall within the jurisdiction of this Committee.

SB 549 (Jones) - Social workers: essential workers.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have required social workers, if deemed essential workers during a state of emergency declared by the Governor, to be included in the group of essential workers who are eligible to receive the first distribution of materials, as determined necessary by the state or local government entity. Would have also provided authorization to the state or a local governmental entity to establish further levels of distribution for specified classifications of social workers within the first group of essential workers eligible to receive the emergency materials.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 549 without my signature.

This bill would require social workers, if they are deemed essential workers during a state of emergency declared by the Governor, to be included in the first group of essential workers who are eligible to receive emergency materials and personal protective equipment (PPE).

Social workers provide vital services to children, families, and individuals and are a critical support during emergencies and disasters. It is imperative that they have the PPE necessary to do their jobs safely.

Existing law already protects and prioritizes essential workers, including social workers, for PPE distribution. Given uncertain and changing conditions in emergencies, this prioritization must be done in a manner that preserves flexibility for emergency response during a state of emergency.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

SB 946 (Jones) - Child support payments.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee but was not set for hearing.

Would have required a local child support agency to notify the court when the agency is providing services in specified child support cases and proceedings.

SJR 8 (Caballero) - Social Security Disability Insurance: disabled adult child benefit.

Status: Chapter 155, Statutes of 2022

Urges the federal administration to amend specified provisions of the Social Security Act regarding Social Security Disability Insurance to allow recipients of childhood disability benefits to continue receiving those benefits upon marriage.

Public Social Services and Other Human Services

AB 47 (Reyes) - Human services: coordinated immigration support services.

Status: Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required CDSS to establish a program that provides grants to qualified nonprofit organizations for multi-tiered and coordinated immigration support services in California for undocumented and mixed-status families who reside in the state and who experienced family separation at the border under the federal government's "zero tolerance" policy. Would have also permitted CDSS to work in consultation with stakeholders to further understand the needs of qualified nonprofit organizations working

to support these families and to explore serving other families who have experienced the trauma of separation at the border.

AB 868 (Eduardo Garcia) - State of emergency: funeral expense assistance.

Status: This bill was amended substantially on April 4, 2022, such that it no longer fell within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

As heard by this committee, would have created the "Emergency Funeral Expenses Fund" and required CDSS to provide funeral expenses to a person who applies for funeral expense assistance for eligible funeral home contract costs incurred for a decedent who died due to COVID-19 or as a result of an emergency that is the basis of a state of emergency declared by the Governor.

AB 932 (Levine) - Cradle-to-Career Grant Program.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have established a statewide "Cradle-to-Career Grant Program" within the Department of Community Services and Development to administer public and private funds at the local level to address child poverty and achievement gaps among California children. Would have also required the department to convene and facilitate a workgroup to develop and establish common indicators and metrics to be applied to all Cradle-to-Career grant recipients.

AB 941 (Bennett) - Farmworker assistance: resource centers.

Status: Chapter 203, Statutes of 2021

Requires the Department of Community Services and Development to establish a grant program for counties to establish farmworker resource centers that provide farmworkers and their families with services related to, among other things, labor and employment rights, education, housing, immigration, and health and human services.

AB 1326 (Arambula) - Public social services: county liaison for higher education.

Status: Chapter 570, Statutes of 2021

Requires a county human services agency to designate at least one employee as a staff liaison to serve as a contact for academic counselors and other professional staff at a campus of an institution of public higher education within the county to provide information on available public social services. Requires the county agency to develop protocols for engagement between the staff liaison and a campus of an institution of public higher education.

AB 1338 (Low) - Public social services programs: financial assistance demonstration and research programs.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have required CDSS to develop a process to register any organization or entity that issues financial assistance through a program in the state; to make public on its website a list of those organizations or entities that have registered to issue financial assistance. Would have also required an organization or entity issuing financial assistance to register that program with the department; to provide the department with specified information,

including disclosing all funding sources of the program under which the financial assistance income is distributed; and, upon the conclusion of the program, to report to the department on the research outcomes. Additionally, would have excluded, to the extent permitted under federal law, financial assistance received by an individual from an organization or entity registered with the department from being considered as income or resources for purposes of determining eligibility and benefit amounts for CalWORKs and CalFresh.

AB 1368 (Calderon) - Social services for persons granted asylum.

Status: Held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have established the "Enhanced Services Program for Asylees" (ESPA) to provide resettlement services for persons granted political asylum to live in this state by the United States Attorney General. Specifically, would have authorized an agency that has been designated by a county to implement social services for refugees to provide social services, according to these provisions, for persons granted asylum and requires the program to provide culturally specific and responsive case management services for persons newly granted asylum for up to 90 days. Further, would have required that case management under ESPA includes assistance in identifying and applying for all benefits to which the person is legally entitled, cultural orientation and integration programs, support in accessing and navigating the health care system, community connection and relationship building, English language instruction, and employment training and job placement assistance.

AB 1461 (Reyes) - Human services: noncitizen victims.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have provided that applicants who have completed their formal application with the appropriate federal agency for status or relief under the federal Violence Against Women Act, special immigrant juvenile status, or asylum status are eligible for certain public social services and health care services that are authorized in current law to certain noncitizen survivors of trafficking and serious crimes. Would have also included noncitizen children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned within the definition of noncitizen survivors of serious crimes.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1461 without my signature.

This bill would codify existing practices of the Trafficking and Crime Victim Assistance Program, and would expand the population eligible to receive these benefits to include those who have applied for immigration relief under the Violence Against Women Act, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, or asylum status.

While I share the author's goal of ensuring that vulnerable populations have the resources necessary to meet their needs while they await adjudication of their application for immigration relief, bills with a significant fiscal impact, such as this, are

best considered in the annual budget process.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

AB 1686 (Bryan) - Child welfare agencies: enforcement.

Status: Chapter 755, Statutes of 2022

Creates a presumption that payment of child support on behalf of a dependent child for whom reunification services with the parents are available is likely to pose a barrier to reunification.

AB 1941 (Salas) - State Supplementary Program for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled: aid amount.

Status: Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

Would have provided a \$600 monthly supplement to SSP grant recipients in any calendar year following a surplus in the state budget, subject to an appropriation in the annual budget act.

AB 2394 (Reyes) - Long-term services and supports.

Status: Referred to the Assembly Aging and Long Term Care Committee but was not set for hearing.

Would have established the "California Long-Term Services and Supports Benefits Board" and the "California Long-Term Services and Supports Benefits Trust Fund" within the State Treasury. The fund would have aimed to finance the finance long-term services and supports for eligible older adults and individuals with physical and mental disabilities.

AB 2517 (Mia Bonta) - California Coordinated Neighborhood and Community Services Grant Program.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have established the "California Coordinated Neighborhood and Community Services Grant Program" to provide competitive awards to eligible entities to implement comprehensive, integrated continuum of cradle-to-career solutions at the local level. Would have required the program to be administered by CDSS or another department within the CalHHS and for grants to be awarded to eligible entities that are Promise Neighborhoods, or other community-based networks, or multi-neighborhood, regional C2C networks.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2517 without my signature.

The bill would, subject to an appropriation, establish a new grant program under which grants would be awarded on a competitive basis to Promise Neighborhoods (PNs) served by the federal program or other eligible entities to either implement a comprehensive, integrated continuum of cradle-to-career solutions at the

neighborhood level or support the civic infrastructure and the backbones of cradle-to-career networks that support their network partners to accomplish systems change.

The author's goal of ensuring coordinated investments in services and supports to achieve better outcomes for children and families throughout their lives is laudable, and I note that the 2022 Budget Act includes \$12 million one-time General Fund to support specified PNs in California. However, there would be substantial costs to administer AB 2517 in addition to tens of millions of dollars in grant funding that would be necessary, neither of which are accounted for in the budget.

With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.

The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

SB 65 (Skinner) - Maternal care and services.

Status: Chapter 449, Statutes of 2021

Establishes the "California Momnibus Act" to monitor and take steps to prevent maternal mortality, including, amongst other things, establishing the "California Pregnancy-Associated Review Committee" to review all pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity, establishing a "Fetal and Mortality Review Committee", convening a workgroup to examine the implementation of a Medi-Cal doula benefit, and removing the medical verification and county determination requirements for CalWORKs recipients who are pregnant and instead provide an exemption to any CalWORKs recipient who is pregnant.

SB 497 (Limón) - Qualifying accounts for direct deposit of publicly administered funds.

Status: Chapter 546, Statutes of 2021

Revises the definition of "qualifying accounts" regarding the accounts for which certain public assistance funds can be deposited, by eliminating a prepaid card account and instead authorizing a prepaid account or a demand deposit or savings account, as specified. Also, requires the Employment Development Department to provide direct deposit options for recipients of disability or family temporary disability insurance benefits.

SB 973 (Hertzberg) - State Supplementary Program: administration.

Status: Chapter 259, Statutes of 2022

Requires CDSS to complete and submit a report to the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2024, that includes specific recommendations on whether the state could produce cost savings by contracting the administration of the SSP program to another government vendor.

SB 1140 (Umberg) - Public social services: electronic benefits transfer cards.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have replaced reference to "cash" with "electronic" in provisions outlining the EBT system reporting and loss procedures. The changes would have ensured that recipients of funding through EBT were reimbursed by CDSS in a timely manner if they are a victim of benefit theft.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1140 without my signature.

The bill would require the Department of Social Services to establish a process for recipients to report electronic theft of electronic benefits and requires the replacement of such benefits after the recipient reports their electronic benefits transfer card or personal identification number lost or stolen. This bill also authorizes the automatic replacement of benefits without the need for recipient reporting and verification.

The electronic theft of benefits affects families and individuals who need help the most, which is why the Department of Social Services has an existing process to replace CalFresh benefits when stolen from an electronic benefit card. I applaud the author for his efforts to expand this process to include the replacement of all benefits on an EBT card in a worthy effort to minimize the harm to recipients. However, this proposal would require millions of dollars in General Fund expenditures that were not accounted for in the budget.

Protecting recipients and ensuring timely replacement of lost or stolen benefits is a priority for my Administration. The California Health and Human Services Agency and the Department of Social Services are working in partnership with counties and the advocate community on several initiatives to improve existing processes, including simplifying the process for reporting and requesting replacement benefits and removing overly burdensome requirements. We welcome the Legislature's continued partnership in efforts to reduce EBT theft and fraud.

With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.

The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

Rehabilitation Services

AB 2480 (Arambula) - Rehabilitation services: persons with vision loss.

Status: Chapter 532, Statutes of 2022

Requires DOR to establish a grant program to provide services to promote independent living to adults who are blind or have low vision and who are not eligible to receive vocational rehabilitation services and specifies that the services shall assist adults who are blind or have low vision, as specified, to receive vision rehabilitation services that will enable them to live independently. Further, requires DOR to award grants to private organizations with demonstrated expertise in serving adults who are blind or have low vision.

SB 842 (Dodd) - Health care: medical goods: reuse and redistribution.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor

Would have required DOR to establish a three-year device utilization pilot program in Contra Costa, Napa, Solano, and Yolo Counties to facilitate the reuse and redistribution of assistive technology, and to contract with one or more nonprofit agencies to oversee the program. Additionally, would have required DOR, by January 1, 2027, to submit a report to the appropriate Senate and Assembly policy committees of the Legislature that would have included, but was not limited to, an evaluation of successes and challenges of implementation and program utilization data.

Governor's Veto Message:

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 842 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Rehabilitation to contract with one or more nonprofit entities to establish a three-year device reutilization pilot program in the Counties of Contra Costa, Napa, Solano, and Yolo to facilitate the reuse and redistribution of assistive technology, including durable medical equipment. The bill would also require the contracting nonprofit agency to use a computerized system to track the available inventory of equipment and supplies and organize pickup and delivery of those items.

I agree with the author's goal of increasing access to assistive technology for people with disabilities and older adults, while also reducing waste in landfills. Although the bill is subject to appropriation, the proposed pilot is duplicative of existing assistive technology reuse programs and would cost an estimated \$5.1 million General Fund over a three-year period that was not included in the state budget.

With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.

The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

Oversight and Informational Hearings

2021 Hearings:

Family Separations: The purpose of the Joint Informational Hearing with the Assembly Judiciary Committee was to discuss the ongoing crisis of family separations at the border with a focus on reunification efforts for families that remain separated, and the provision of mental health services to families that have been reunited. (January 26, 2021)

2022-23 Community Services Block Grant State Plan: The purpose of this Joint Oversight Hearing with the Senate Human Services Committee was to update the Legislature on the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) which provides federal dollars to states to address and alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty across California's communities. By working with local eligible entities, CSBG funds are utilized to provide community-level anti-poverty services and promote self-sufficiency among the individuals eligible to receive services. (August 17, 2021)

Hearing materials may be found on the Committee's website at:
<https://ahum.assembly.ca.gov/content/2021-22-oversight-informational-hearings>