



COMMUNITY VOICES UPDATE

AUGUST 2015

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VOTE!**



**BECAUSE
CHILDREN CAN'T**

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Let's Recap While They Recess!

The Legislature has returned from recess and ready to work as

VOTE!



"Democracy is not just the right to vote, it is the right to live in dignity." - Naomi Klein

Each year we celebrate Women's Equality Day on August 26 to commemorate the women's suffrage movement. The amendment was introduced for the first time to the United States Congress on January 10, 1878. The U.S. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby signed the amendment into law on August 26, 1920, granting women the right to vote.

Our great-grandmothers, our grandmothers, our mothers have only had the right to vote for less than a century. We live in a time where our right to vote is at stake, where our children and families continue to live in poverty, where higher education is becoming unattainable, where there is

they face numerous pending bills, which need to be submitted by September 11. Below are updates for key legislation for child care and early learning:



AB 47 (McCarty) - State Preschool Program	Suspense File*	Senate Appropriations
AB 53 (Garcia) - Vehicle: Child Safety Seats	Third Reading***	Senate Appropriations
AB 271 (Oberholte) - Child care: Alternative Payment Programs and Contractors: Electronic Records: Digital Signatures	Suspense File	Senate Appropriations
AB 433 (Chu) - Public social services: CalWORKs	Suspense File	Senate Appropriations
AB 713 (Weber) - Elementary Education: Kindergarten	Suspense File	Senate Appropriations
AB 762 (Mullin) - Day Care Centers: Integrated Licensing	Second Reading	Senate Appropriations
SB 3 (Leno) - Minimum Wage: Adjustment	No action taken as of 8/19	Assembly Appropriations
SB 23 (Mitchell) - CalWORKs: Eligibility	No action taken as of 8/19	Assembly Appropriations
SB 277 (Pan & Allen) - Public Health: Vaccinations	Chaptered on 6/30/15	
SB 548 (De Leon) - Child Care: Family Child Care Providers: Bargaining Representative	No action taken as of 8/19	Assembly Appropriations

**Suspense file*: Holding place for legislation that will cost more than a certain amount of money.

***Second reading*: Bills passed by committees are read a second time on the floor in the house of origin and then assigned to third

turmoil in our communities - we cannot continue to take our right to vote for granted. We need to stay informed about the issues that impact our youngest learners and working families to ensure equal rights and a quality of life for all. Exercise your right to vote, Because Children Can't Vote!

To learn more about the issues impacting our children and families and how you can become a stronger advocate, check out our [Advocacy Corner](#).

reading. Bill analyses are also prepared prior to third reading.

****Third reading*: The last stage that a bill goes through in the House of Origin before it passes to the second House to go through the committee process all over again. On Third Reading, the author presents the bill for passage by the entire house.

Stay tuned as staff continues to track the updates.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Recess, Reauthorizations and More...

Not only is our State Legislature in recess but our Congress members began their recess this month and will return after Labor Day. Upon their return, they will have to meet the September 30th dead- line of presenting the final version of the FY 15-16 budget to the President. Some important discussions taking place are focused around the following:



Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

- *Every Child Achieves Act*: The Senate bill which includes, a proposal to authorize a new early education grant for states to improve early childhood education coordination, quality, and access. It would specifically target resources for low- and moderate-income families. Additionally, it would create a new literacy program that includes a set-aside for early learning initiatives.
- *Student Success Act*: The House bill that would shift responsibility for student assessment and school accountability to states by reducing or eliminating federal education oversight, spending, and programs. It would create a federal grant for states and school districts called the Local Academic Flexible Grant. It would require 10% of this grant to support state and local programs that operate

outside of traditional public school systems, such as charter schools. It would also have Title 1 funds, which are federal grants given to local education agencies, serving a high percentage of low income families, following low-income students to whichever schools they attend.

Reauthorization of the Child Care and Adult Food Program (CACFP)

- CACFP is a federal program serving more than 3 million children in child care, Head Start and after school programs across the country. It provides aid for the provision of nutritious foods that contribute to the wellness, healthy growth, and development of young children, and the health and wellness of older adults and chronically impaired disabled persons.
- It has a reauthorization deadline later this year.
- Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) introduced the *Access to Healthy Food for Young Children Act of 2015*, which would reduce the CACFP area eligibility from 50% to 40% to streamline access and expand eligibility to include more low-income children, allow child care centers and family child care centers with the option of serving a reimbursable third meal, and increase the reimbursement rate for CACFP sponsoring organizations.

Reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program

- In early July, the Human Resources Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee produced a discussion draft for a five-year reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant, which is currently funded until September 30, 2015.
- For more details on the discussion draft, [click here](#).

ADVOCACY CORNER

Summer is almost over, so what's next?How about joining

Community Voices for their upcoming workshops? We are working on this year's schedule but below are topics we will be discussing in the coming months.



- Navigating the Child Care System (October 2015)
- What Happened with Child Care in 2015 and What's Still Missing? (November 2015)
- Know Your State - California Budget & Legislative Process (January 2015)

Stay tuned for more information regarding registration. Also, if you have any suggestions for other workshops, please feel free to give us a call at (323) 421-2602 or send us an email at jguerra@crystalstairs.org. Your Voice is Our Voice!

GET INVOLVED!

Because Children Can't Vote!

We need YOU! Join us in our mission to engage and strengthen the voices of working families and children. We want to hear and share your story, give you the opportunity to network, engage your community, and participate in countywide legislative and community events, advocacy trainings and more.



What you have to say, matters! If you have any suggestions for what you'd like to see more of in the Community Voices Update, please let us know. We are here to keep you informed. **Stand and speak for your child and the children of Los Angeles County!**

If you are interested in learning more about advocacy efforts related to child care, please contact Jessica Guerra at (323) 421-2602 or send an email to jguerra@crystalstairs.org.

Community Voices is a countywide project focused on child care advocacy and issues related to children and families. We train parents and providers to become stronger advocates.

Learn more about how you can become an advocate and make a difference by joining Community Voices!

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