



## Truth and Justice in Child Support Coalition

### Response to 2022-2023 May Revision to the Governor Newsom's Budget

(Sacramento, CA - May 16, 2022)

Our coalition commends Governor Newsom for continuing to include the end of intercepted child support payments for families formerly receiving public benefits assistance in the [2022-23 May Revision to the State Budget](#). If enacted, this historic reform would build on the other transformative changes [Governor Newsom has made to California's child support system](#) and ensure that millions of dollars in child support payments go to who needs them most: low-income children and parents.

Governor Newsom has done more than any other governor in California's history to ensure that the child support system supports low-income children and parents. Our coalition is excited to see Governor Newsom's proposed child-support reforms enacted and calls on the Legislature to support them.

We also respectfully urge the Administration to continue its inspiring track record of supporting the lowest-income families in our state and ensure that 100 percent of child support dollars go to the poorest children; that is, all families currently receiving assistance from CalWORKs and Medi-Cal, as detailed in the Legislature's [2022-23 Budget Blueprint](#)

Currently, more than \$100 million of child support payments do not go to low-income families, many of whom are Black and brown: these payments instead go to the government. When a single parent signs up for certain public benefits in California, such as CalWORKs or Medi-Cal, they are shamefully required to sign over their rights to their child support payments. California allows \$100 for one child and \$200 for two or more children to pass through if a non-custodial parent pays child support; the rest is intercepted by the government to pay for critical social support programs that should be free to anyone who needs it.

**Low-income children, custodial parents, and non-custodial parents all benefit when 100 percent of child support payments go to families who need it most.** In San Francisco, our coalition, in partnership with the San Francisco Department of Child Support Services and the Walter & Elise Haas Fund, launched a [pilot program to allow 100% of 32 low-income fathers' child support payments to go directly to their children and co-parents](#). [The Urban Institute analyzed](#) this pilot program and found numerous benefits, including that parents made more consistent and timely monthly child support payments. When Colorado enacted this same reform, parents made larger and more consistent payments, ensuring that parents' payments go where they're needed most—to their children.

**We share Governor Newsom's unwavering commitment to uplifting low-income children and parents in California.** Ensuring that 100% of child support payments go to all low-income children and families would be transformative for low-income families in our state. We thank Governor Newsom again for his stalwart support of low-income families and look forward to continuing to work together to make our state's child-support system more just.

*[Truth and Justice in Child Support](#) is a growing statewide coalition of 50+ organizations that seeks to change state policy on child support pass-through, payments and collections to better support low-income children and their families and reduce child poverty in California. For more information, watch our video ["Everything You Think You Know About California Child Support is Probably Wrong"](#). Please contact Rachel Freitas at [rachcfreitas@gmail.com](mailto:rachcfreitas@gmail.com), for additional information.*

