



Truth and Justice in Child Support Coalition

TJCS Celebrates Child Support Wins in the 2022 California Legislative Session
Two bills passed the California Legislature and were signed by Governor Newsom that will greatly reform the child support program and protect low-income parents from egregious policies that prioritized state recoupment over family economic stability.

(Sacramento, CA - September 30, 2022)

We thank Governor Newsom, Senator Kamlager, Assemblymember Bryan, and the California Senate and Assembly for recognizing harmful policies in the child support program and revising them accordingly. These new laws will benefit low-income parents in California, who work tirelessly for their families even as they face significant challenges.

Senator Kamlager's [SB 1055](#) will protect low-income parents from driver's license suspensions because of child support debt. The Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) will not be allowed to submit to the DMV the name of any parent with a household income at or below 70% of the median income in the county the parent resides. License suspensions are not an effective method of collecting child support



debt; in fact, they increase the chance of a parent losing a job or not finding a job because of transportation barriers. Reduced employment in turn hinders a parent from paying child support, which is the opposite of what the program wants to do.

Assemblymember Bryan's [AB 1686](#) will significantly limit the Department of Social Services (DSS) from referring families in the foster care program to DCSS for recoupment of child support payable to the State. The bill recognizes that paying child support to the State is likely to hinder reunification of families, unnecessarily extend the child's time in foster care, and create additional stress on a parent during an already challenging time period.

Families in the child support and child welfare systems in California are disproportionately families of color. Families of color are nearly two-thirds of families in the child support program¹. Almost three-quarters of children placed in foster care were Black or Latinx in 2020². Systemic punitive policies, including license suspensions and state recoupment of foster care costs, play a role in unjust racial and economic inequality.

These two signed bills will bolster support of low-income families in California. In tandem with the [2022-2023 enacted state budget](#), SB 1055 and AB 1686 signal the Governor and Legislature's interest in modernizing the state child support program to be family-centered and resourceful, rather than a punitive program that hinders employment and intercepts money from economically vulnerable families. We are grateful to Senator Kamlager and Assemblymember Bryan for sponsoring these important reforms!

[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, for additional information.

¹ "The Payback Problem" Insight Center, Policy Link, Tipping Point Community, Western Center on Law and Poverty, San Francisco Financial Justice Project. April 2019.

<https://insightced.org/the-payback-problem/>

² AB 1686 Fact Sheet.

<https://allianceforchildrensrightrights.org/wp-content/uploads/AB-1686-Fact-Sheet-3.10.pdf>