



Truth and Justice in Child Support Coalition

Response to 2022-2023 California State Budget Trailer Bill

The TJCS Coalition celebrates significant family-centered improvements to the State child support program in the Budget Trailer Bill. The Governor and Legislature direct full 100 percent pass-through of child support to low-income families by 2025; a major accomplishment that will make California the first state in the nation to completely halt the practice of government interception of child support payments for families receiving safety net services.

(Sacramento, CA - September 7, 2022)

We are grateful to Governor Newsom, Senator Skinner, Assemblymember Ting, and the Legislature for their tremendous leadership to profoundly restructure the State child support program so that low-income parents receive the justice, recognition, and full child support dollars that they deserve.

California is on the cusp of transformational change to the child support program by stopping the practice of intercepted child support payments for families receiving public



benefits, either currently or in the past. The Budget Trailer Bill directs full child support pass-through for families that *formerly* received CalWorks benefits, beginning July 1, 2023. Just as important, the Trailer Bill also makes clear the intent of full family pass-through of child support by 2025 for families *currently* receiving CalWorks benefits.

These two policy changes together will put approximately **\$350 million** each year in the pockets of low-income parents and children, the majority of whom are people of color. California is making an unprecedented investment in the wealth and well-being of low-income children and families in our State's child support system and showing states around the country that funding the social safety net on the backs of struggling families is unjust, counter-productive, and ineffective.

In addition, the Trailer Bill provides child support relief to incarcerated parents by setting the order to zero during the period of incarceration. This ensures that parents are not saddled with immense child support debt when re-entering society. We applaud the recognition that it is unfair to expect non-custodial parents to pay support orders when they are in no position to be paid an income. Re-entering society with child support debt causes increased recidivism for the non-custodial parent, further harming a child's relationship with their parent.

We deeply appreciate the Governor and Legislators' efforts to right a historic wrong, and support it with funding in the budget. We look forward to working with the Administration to keep to its commitment to 100 percent pass-through in 2025 along with these other transformational changes.

[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.

