



## Truth and Justice in Child Support Coalition

**TJCS Celebrates Child Support Wins in the 2023 California Legislative Session**  
*Two bills passed the California Legislature and were signed by Governor Newsom that will greatly reform the child support program by ensuring child support orders better reflect parents' ability to pay and allowing parents more time to find economic stability after incarceration before reinstating child support orders.*

**(Sacramento, CA - October 17, 2023)**

We thank Governor Newsom, Senator Skinner, Assemblymember Bonta, and the California Senate and Assembly for supporting low-income families in the child support program. In the past few weeks, Governor Newsom signed two bills that recognize that

parents want to financially support their children but sometimes face challenges that require a more realistic and empathetic approach to individual circumstances.

Senator Skinner's [SB 343](#) brings California in compliance with federal law and includes the critical pieces for California's courts and child support program to better support parents and children by setting orders at an amount parents can afford. This bill will require court and program staff to gather actual evidence on a parent's ability to pay and bring parents into the process to have their voices heard. More parents will receive a low-income adjustment that protects a parent's own living expenses, lifting the threshold for the adjustment to account for the rising cost of living in California. Parents want to support their children, but when orders are set too high, it places tremendous pressure on them and debts quickly grow to insurmountable levels. Research shows that child support payments increase when orders are set at amounts parents can afford.

Assemblymember Bonta's [AB 1148](#) extends the amount of time a parent receives after incarceration before reinstating child support orders from less than one month to ten months. This bill recognizes many of the ongoing systemic barriers that formerly incarcerated people face, including hardships in finding housing, securing stable employment, navigating discrimination because of reentry status, and reuniting with their children. Providing a parent enough time to secure stable employment and get back on their feet ensures they can adequately support themselves and their families. This will reduce the accumulation of child support debt, which swiftly engulfs a parent because of the state's 10% interest rate.

These two signed bills bolster support of low-income families in California. We are grateful to Senator Skinner and Assemblymember Bonta for sponsoring these important reforms!



*[Truth and Justice in Child Support](#) is a growing statewide coalition of 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 us at [info@truthandjusticeinchildsupport.org](mailto:info@truthandjusticeinchildsupport.org) for additional information.*