

LETTER OF SUPPORT – AB 197

Targeted Advocacy
Requests
State

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

California law states that to be eligible for CalWORKs assistance, a family cannot own a car valued at more than \$4650. This proves to be a hindrance to families whose vehicle value is above the limit because they often must choose between disposing of their automobile or foregoing needed cash assistance as they look for employment. Assembly Bill 197 would repeal the vehicle asset limit for CalWORKs applicants and recipients.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Passage of this bill would stop forcing families with higher value vehicles to choose between a vehicle they often need to secure employment and available assistance that they otherwise qualify for. Furthermore, elimination of the vehicle asset limit would free up county workers' time so they can focus more on helping families. As it stands, few families are determined ineligible because of the vehicle asset limit, but county workers are required to screen all applicants to verify their vehicle status and value, taking up time and resources that could be more effectively used.

COST TO GOVERNMENT

While a small number of formerly ineligible applicants may now be found eligible, the administrative costs of processing these new cases would easily be offset by the time and effort saved by eliminating the vehicle asset test. Furthermore, this bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to statutory provisions.

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The Department of Social Services requests that the County send a signed letter of support (attached) to Assemblyman Stone, the author of the bill.

CONTACT

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