Dr. LaShae Sharp- Collins
79th Assembly District

AB 1755: Ending CalWORKs Work Hour Restrictions

SUMMARY

AB 1755 ends an outdated and harmful rule that punishes families for working. Under current law, a two-parent family can lose CalWORKs simply because a parent works more than 100 hours a month, even if they are income eligible. This bill eliminates this unfair work penalty and ensures that eligibility is based on need, not an arbitrary hourly cap.

BACKGROUND

For too long, California has enforced an outdated welfare rule that punishes parents for working and puts children at risk. Under current law, a family can lose CalWORKs support if a parent works more than 100 hours in four weeks, even when their wages are so low that they still cannot afford rent, food, or basic necessities. The rule can be especially harmful when parents reunite and become a two-parent household, as exceeding the 100-hour threshold can suddenly render the family ineligible for support.

The current rule creates a benefits cliff that destabilizes families and makes it harder for parents to stay employed. By eliminating this outdated restriction, we remove a barrier that has kept families stuck in crisis instead of helping them move forward.

This bill is a smart economic investment. Parents forced out of the workforce rely more heavily on other public benefits and face longer-term unemployment.

By keeping families stable and connected to work, this bill helps prevent more expensive crises down the line and reduces long-term reliance on public systems.

This bill stands with working families, removes an unjust barrier, and moves California closer to a safety net that truly supports work, dignity, and economic security.

THIS BILL

AB 1755 removes an outdated barrier that punishes work, protects children, and strengthens California's economy. By focusing on income instead of the arbitrary 100 work hour limits, it ensures CalWORKs supports families who are doing their best to get ahead, not pushing them further behind.

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Western Center on Law & Poverty
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
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