

MCAH Legislative Summary/Update
March 1, 2018

Congressman Thompson

H.R. 1565 requires comprehensive and enforceable background checks on all commercial gun sales, including those at gun shows, over the internet or through classified ads while providing reasonable exceptions for family and friends. Background checks would be conducted through a licensed dealer in the same manner as they have for more than 40 years.

Washington – March 1, 2018 Rep. **Mike Thompson (CA-05)** announced that he now has **200 co-sponsors from both parties for his bipartisan Thompson-King Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act**, a bill that would give states resources to help them submit information to the background checks system. The bill would also expand the system to cover all commercial firearm sales, closing gun show, internet, and classified ad loopholes.

“It is clear that members of both parties and the President himself agree – we need a strengthened background checks system to help keep our nation safe. That’s why I am pleased to announce a record number of supporters, Democrats and Republicans, for my bipartisan bill to expand the system,” said Thompson. “This support marks the overwhelming public support for strengthening background checks and the urgent need to take action immediately. Let’s hold a vote now and act to help prevent gun violence.”

Rep. Mike Thompson will discuss his efforts to prevent gun violence at a town hall meeting **Saturday at the Hanna Boys Center in Sonoma.**

Thompson, who **chairs the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force**, noted that in the wake of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida “measures to prevent gun violence have again captured the nation’s attention.”

Thompson and Republican Rep. Pete King of New York are coauthors of a bill that would expand the existing background check system to cover all commercial firearm sales, including those at gun shows, over the internet or in classified ads.

10 to 11 a.m. Saturday at the Hanna Center, 17000 Arnold Drive.

STATE LEGISLATION—bills to follow

SB 937 (SENATOR WIENER) – LACTATION ACCOMMODATION

Supports Lactation in the Workplace for Working Women

Senate Bill 937 requires businesses to **provide lactation facilities for their workers, requires that lactation facilities be built in new construction, and ensures employees receive information about their rights to a safe and comfortable lactation space at work.**

The bill also requires the state to come up with model policies that businesses can implement to meet the requirements of SB 937.

AB 1892 (Jones-Sawyer): Feeding California

Expands CalFresh Transitional Benefits to prevent hunger during program transition by extending Transitional CalFresh benefits to individuals and households leaving important safety net programs.

Insufficient access to food is an issue that can have long lasting impacts on an individual's health and life outcomes. California can make a meaningful impact on hunger and increase access to nutritional resources by extending **Transitional CalFresh benefits**, for up to five months, to households ending their time with the following programs:

- Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants
- County General Relief or General Assistance
- Benefits under the California Fostering Connections to Success Act

This bill would also allow individuals on CalFresh to participate in CalFresh Employment and Training (CalFresh E&T) to help enable further upward mobility. Finally, because access to online resources and applications is often a barrier to work AB 1892 would allow CalFresh E&T to be used to cover the costs internet or telephone services.

SCR104 (Senator Hertzberg) National Nutrition Month

This measure would declare the month of March 2018 as National Nutrition Month and would encourage citizens to seek nutritional education.

SB1158 (Sen. McGuire) - Specialized license plates: "Have a Heart, Be a Star, Help Our Kids" license plate program

Existing law establishes fees for specialized license plates to be deposited in the **Child Health and Safety Fund**, and makes moneys in the fund available, upon appropriation, for child safety and licensing administration for child day care facilities.

This bill would increase the fees (to \$98 and \$50)

- Existing law requires that 50% of the funds received from the "Have a Heart, Be a Star, Help Our Kids" specialized license plate program be expended for licensing administration for child day care facilities.

This bill would revise those allocations, after January 1, 2019, that

- 20% of those funds be used for licensing administration for child day care facilities by the State Department of Social Services
- 20% of those funds be used by the Emergency Medical Services Authority to support the function of child care licensee primary care and safety training program support.
- The bill would further require that 25% of the moneys in the fund derived from the license plate program be used by the State Department of Social Services for child abuse prevention, as specified.
- the remaining 35% of those moneys to be used by the State Department of Public Health for other child health and safety concerns.

SB275 (Portantino)- Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Recovery Program Act

Establishes a program to provide prevention, early intervention, and treatment services for children, adolescents, and young adults. The bill would require the State Department of Health Care Services, in collaboration with counties and providers of alcohol and other behavioral health services, to report to the Legislature during budget hearings regarding the status of the implementation of the act, as specified. The provisions of the bill establishing this reporting requirement would become inoperative and be repealed on January 1, 2023.

AB 2043 (Arambula) – Foster Youth – Response System

This legislation supports efforts to implement the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) in California's foster care system. The bill creates the California Coordinated Response System, adapted from successful response systems in other states. This system includes a toll-free hotline available statewide, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to caregivers and children and youth in the foster care system who are experiencing emotional, behavioral or other difficulties that are overwhelming to them and who feel they need immediate help.

Hotline operators with training in conflict resolution and de-escalation will provide immediate assistance over the phone to help defuse the conflict or crisis, and will triage the situation to determine whether mobile, in-home support is needed. Counties' child welfare and behavioral health agencies would be required to establish mobile response teams to provide face-to-face, in-home response on a 24/7 basis to help defuse and stabilize the situation, assess the caregiver's and child's needs, and develop a plan of action to provide the family with needed ongoing services through the existing local network of care service systems.

Cosponsored with the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA) and Children Now

AB 2083 (Cooley) – Trauma-Informed Services for Foster Youth

Status: Introduced on February 7, 2018

Would take steps at the local, state and practitioner level to **improve and coordinate services** to the most highly traumatized youth in care. Specifically, the bill:

- Requires implementation of a local memorandum of understanding between the **county child welfare agency, behavioral health department, probation department, county office of education and the regional center serving the county.**
- Establishes a state-level group representing the Departments of Social Services, Health Care Services, and Developmental Disabilities. This state-level group will help counties with implementation of the required MOUs, **develop policies where gaps or inconsistencies are noted**, help to a case level when placement or services issues are identified that cannot be locally resolved, and review placement options for highly traumatized youth to determine whether gaps exist and make recommendations.
- Task the state-level group with development of a plan to develop and train additional trauma-informed practitioners to serve children, recognizing that a shortage of such trained professionals exists today.

AB2119 (Gloria) - Foster care: gender affirming health care and behavioral health

Existing law provides that it is the policy of the state that all minors and nonminors in foster care have the right to receive medical, dental, vision, and mental health services and the right to be placed in out-of-home care according to their gender identity, regardless of the gender or sex listed in their court or child welfare records.

This bill would additionally specify that all minors and nonminors in foster care have the right to have access to gender affirming health care and gender affirming behavioral health care.

AB 2637 (O'Donnell) – CalWORKs High School Graduation Credits

Status: Introduced on February 15, 2018

Would provide for a one-time \$500 high school graduation credit for youth in **CalWORKs families who are not Cal-Learn participants and who graduate high school or earn a high school equivalency certificate.** The provision of such a credit **encourages youth to remain in school** and also can provide a **springboard toward post-secondary education and training** for these youth, who often feel pressured to enter the workforce rather than continuing their education.

Cosponsored with the County of Los Angeles

SB 982 (Mitchell) – Ending CalWORKs Deep Poverty

Status: Introduced February 1, 2018

Would ensure that no child receiving a CalWORKs grant is living in deep poverty, as defined by a grant level that is less than 50 percent of the federal poverty level.

Cosponsored with Black Women for Wellness, Latinas for Reproductive Justice, Children’s Defense Fund-California, Coalition of CA Welfare Rights Organizations, Friends Committee on Legislation of California, National Association of Social Workers, National Council of Jewish Women-California, Parent Voices California, Western Center on Law and Poverty

AB 1921 (Maienschein) – CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program

Status: Set for hearing March 6 in Assembly Human Services

Enables counties to better assist homeless CalWORKs families through the existing Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) by:

- Allowing families to receive 16 cumulative days of temporary housing assistance per year (32 days in cases of documented domestic violence). Current law requires assistance to be provided on consecutive days, significantly limiting the usefulness of the benefit.
- Allows a family to receive Permanent Housing Assistance (to use their payment for shared housing) for shared housing when a valid lease agreement has been entered into.