



AB 294 (Lackey)

FACTSHEET

The Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations urges your “Aye” vote on AB 294.

Assembly Bill 294 will increase transparency in departments under the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHSA) by requiring that federally approved state plans and waivers be posted in an easily accessible location on their respective websites.

Currently, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) provides an excellent model for waiver and state plan transparency as DHCS has a webpage devoted to Medi-Cal waivers that is clearly identified and easily accessible from a link on the department’s homepage. This is a model AB 294 hopes to emulate for other CHHSA departments.

On websites for other departments within CHHSA, it is very difficult to find approved waivers or state plan—if they are posted at all. Many are buried on pages that are not labeled as containing waiver information or require visiting multiple pages before they can be located.

Improving waiver and state plan transparency is important because we have seen issues in the past arise when information on waivers and state plans are not readily available to the public.

Recently, advocates learned of an “early denial waiver” which allowed applicants for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as CalFresh or food stamps, to be denied for failing to provide income verification within 10 days—30 days are required without the waiver. When the existence of the early denial waiver came to light, many in the public were surprised because they were unaware California had been granted it.

This type of issue can be avoided if waivers and state plans are easy for the public to find and access online. Providing online access is also much less expensive for agencies than having to respond to public information requests.

SUPPORT:

- *Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc. - SPONSOR*
- *AFSCME •Alliance California Alternative Payment Program Association •California Hunger Action Coalition •Western Center on Law and Poverty*

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AB 294 History – No “no” Votes to date

Date	Action
08/24/15	In Assembly. Senate amendments concurred in. To Engrossing and Enrolling.
08/20/15	Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Assembly.
06/22/15	From committee: Be placed on second reading file pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8.
06/09/15	Senate Human Services Committee (Ayes 5. Noes 0.) (June 9). Referred to Com. on APPR.
04/30/15	Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. (Ayes 77. Noes 0. Page 1222.)
04/22/15	From committee: Do pass. To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 17. Noes 0.) (April 22).
04/08/15	From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 18. Noes 0.) (April 7).
02/12/15	Read first time. To print.
06/23/15	Read second time. Ordered to third reading.