



AB 2269: CalWORKs Age Extension

Background

Individuals who earn a General Educational Development (GED) credential can earn the same level of weekly wages as high school graduates. A GED credential can increase income earning potential by roughly \$115 per week in comparison to individuals with no high school degree or its equivalent.¹

In today's competitive economy, completing high school or its equivalent is imperative for financial success. Statistics show that sixty-percent of job opportunities in the skilled labor force mandate a high school diploma.

A high school diploma or its equivalent can ensure a socioeconomically disadvantaged individual escapes his or her economic circumstances.

The CalWORKs program is designed to break the cycle of poverty. Yet, the current program structure inaccurately excludes benefits from individuals who are pursuing education simply because of his or her age.

Current Law

Currently, CalWORKs program benefits terminate for a person who reaches the age of 18 years old, unless there is evidence that he or she will complete school requirements before turning 19 years of age.

The Problem

By terminating eligibility of individuals seeking a GED credential based on age, the CalWORKs program is excluding opportunities for economic mobility of communities that are financially affected the most.

Legislation should permit individuals who are seeking a high school degree or its equivalent to pursue education until the age of 20.

What will this bill specifically do?

AB 2269 extends the CalWORKs program for persons receiving aid until he or she reaches the age of 20 if he or she is attending school and making satisfactory progress as defined by the school.

Sponsor

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