



Senator Melissa Hurtado

REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 14

Senate Bill 61

Supportive Services for Workforce Program Participants

Lifting Children and Families Out of Poverty:

Workforce Training Supportive Services Program

As introduced December 7, 2020

SUMMARY

SB 61 helps unemployed and underemployed individuals access and complete workforce training programs through the Lifting Children and Families Out of Poverty Workforce Training Supportive Services Program.

PROBLEM

In November 2018, the Lifting Children and Families Out of Poverty Task Force submitted their report to the Legislature on ending deep child poverty and reducing overall child poverty by fifty percent. One of the priority recommendations they made was to fund supportive services for low-income individuals to complete workforce training programs.

Workforce training programs have a proven impact on disrupting the cycle of poverty by improving upward mobility and increasing positive adult outcomes for children living in poverty.

The Task Force reported that many low-income workforce training participants do not complete their programs, often due to a lack of childcare or affordable transportation.

BACKGROUND

Despite having the fifth largest economy in the world, California still has the highest child poverty rate in the nation. In 2016,

approximately eighty-three percent of poor children in California lived in families with only one working adult. Only half of poor children lived in families with only one adult working full time for the entire year and only a third had one adult working only part time and/or for part of the year.

In the southern Central Valley, automation continues to displace key workforce populations, like farmworkers, and to exacerbate this issue of child poverty.

SOLUTION

SB 61 requires the California Workforce Development Board establish and administer the Lifting Families Out of Poverty Workforce Training Supportive Services Program. The bill requires the Board to create additional training program partnerships to address the displacement of workers in the Central Valley, including farmworkers and at-risk youth. Upon appropriation by the Legislature, it provides for grants to low-income workforce training participants. In doing so, it provides needed assistance to unemployed and underemployed workers working to expand their training and marketability.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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