

Please send a support letter – **On your letter head**

Sample Support Letter – Assembly Bill 1921 (Maienschein, Santiago)

Send Email To: Irene.Frausto@asm.ca.gov or By Fax To: (916) 319-2189

Send Copy To: Carli.Olson@asm.ca.gov, Kevin.Aslanian@ccwro, Csend@cwda.org & jbartholow@wclp.org

Date ____ **Please Submit by February 6th**

Honorable Blanca Rubio
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
State Capitol, Room 5175
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support AB 1921 (Maienschein) – Homeless Families with Children

Dear Chairperson Rubio:

[Name of Your Organization] supports Assembly Bill 1921 (Maienschein, Santiago).

As you know, homelessness continues to be a problem in our state and throughout the country. While often hidden, homelessness among families with children is at an all-time high. The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program works to alleviate the problem of child homelessness by providing temporary and permanent housing assistance to families with children.

CalWORKs currently provides temporary housing assistance for 16 consecutive days during one year to homeless families with children. This means that any one instance of receiving temporary housing assistance, even if it is for less than 16 days in total, bars the family from receiving additional assistance for a year. This limit has unintended consequences, such as placing a homeless family in the difficult position of deciding whether to accept or forego an offer of temporary housing from family or friends or whether to pursue employment or housing opportunities in a different area of the state and risk losing eligibility for additional assistance should they become homeless again within the year.

Additionally, current law and regulations require CalWORKs recipients who are homeless and requesting permanent housing assistance to secure housing with a commercial establishment or a person in the business of renting properties. As a result, suitable shared-home living accommodations for families with children cannot be used to prevent or ameliorate homelessness among CalWORKs households.

AB 1921 would remove the consecutive day requirement for temporary housing assistance and allow CalWORKs recipients to use permanent housing assistance payment towards shared housing. By making these changes, AB 1921 would increase options for our state's poorest families with children while also improving the effectiveness of the CalWORKs program's homelessness interventions. For these reasons, **[Name of Your Organization]** supports AB 1921 and respectfully requests your "Aye" vote.

Sincerely,

Your Name and Title

CC: Carli Olson, Office of Honorable Brian Maienschein, California State Assembly (Author)
Marilyn Limon, Office of Honorable Miguel Santiago, California State Assembly (Author)
Kevin Aslanian, Coalition of California Welfare Rights Advocates (Co-Sponsor)
Jessica Bartholow, Western Center on Law and Poverty (Co-Sponsor)
Cathy Senderling-McDonald, County Welfare Directors Association (Co-Sponsor)