



## *California Latinas for Reproductive Justice*

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### **FOR IMMEDIATELY RELEASE**

## **Re: California To Repeal Maximum Family Grant Rule**

Sacramento, California (June 10, 2016) – Governor Jerry Brown, senate Pro Tem Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles), and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Paramount) have agreed to include funds to repeal the state's welfare to work program, CalWORKs, family cap rule, known as the Maximum Family Grant, in the state's 2016 Budget. The inclusion of the repeal of the CalWORKs Maximum Family Grant (MFG) rule is a huge victory for the broad base coalition of reproductive justice, anti-poverty, and social justice advocates.

"The Maximum Family Grant rule stemmed from racist, classist, sexist stereotypes of women of color and affected generations of poor children. Today we are rejoicing along side the 95,000 families and 130,000 children currently affected by MFG. California is finally free of a failed oppressive law which disproportionately affected women of color and drove so many families into deeper poverty," said Laura Jimenez, Executive Director at California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ).

It was in 1992, when California voters first rejected an MFG-like measure that was later introduced by the legislature and was promptly approved and signed into law in 1994 by former Governor Pete Wilson. In 2012, the efforts to repeal the Maximum Family Grant began as a project of a team of women advocates who were part of the Women's Foundation of California's Women's Policy Institute. The initial work of the WPI Reproductive Justice team built alliances across the reproductive justice and economic justice movements, which became critical in developing the broad base support for the #RepealMFG campaign, that ended this week with a resounding victory for poor women of color and children in California.

"We want to uplift the leadership and tireless efforts of Senator Holly Mitchell who championed this bill for three and half years, and took it across the finish line with the strategy to include it in the annual budget this year. Her fearless resolve and commitment to framing poverty as the consequence of decades of failed social policies marks an important shift in the tone of the rhetoric used by policymakers," said Laura Jimenez.

"This victory, reflects the voices of women of color and low income women who demand basic human rights and refuse to accept the sinking of our families into deeper poverty," said Myra Duran, Policy Manager, California Latinas for Reproductive Justice.

Over the past four years, CLRJ, along with Access Women's Health Justice, ACLU of Northern California, East Bay Community Law Center, Welfare Directors Association, and the Western Center on Law and Poverty worked, along side over 130 economic and reproductive justice groups, to support Senator Holly Mitchell's efforts and building support to bring an end to a



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failed policy that pushed thousands of poor families into deeper poverty while at the same time intruding in the private reproductive decisions of poor women across the state.

“The repeal of MFG in California sends a message that we will not accept further marginalization of our families and that we demand action from our representatives,” said Laura Jimenez. “We commend Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León, and Governor Brown for receiving this message and for hearing the voices of women and families most affected by this rule and prioritizing its removal from California law.”

Almost 60% of those families affected by the MFG rule are Latino families with an additional 20% of the families affected reported as African American.

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### **About California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ)**

CLRJ is a statewide organization committed to honoring the experiences of Latinas to uphold our dignity, our bodies, sexuality, and families. We build Latinas' power and cultivate leadership through community education, policy advocacy, and community informed research to achieve Reproductive Justice. Learn more about California Latinas for Reproductive Justice at [www.californialatinas.org](http://www.californialatinas.org)

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