



AB 1434, Kalra, Increase SSI Base Pay, COLA

What is AB 1434, and why do we need it?

AB 1434 is an incremental step toward full restoration of recession-era cuts to the SSI/SSP program, a combination Federal/State program that awards monthly grants to 1.3 million California seniors and other disabled people who get no or minimal Social Security benefits.

AB 1434 would reinstate a Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) as a permanent component to the SSI/SSP program starting January 2020. It would also mandate that monthly payments be at least 100% of 2019 Federal Poverty Level.

California SSI/SSP has undergone shameful cuts since the recession years. In 2009 the annual COLA was abolished. Since then, the state funded SSP portion of grants been cut from \$233 a month to \$156 a month today for individuals and from \$568 a month in January 2009 to \$396.20 today for couples. SSI recipients are now at 89% of Poverty Level. Since 2007, the SSI/SSP caseload has increased by some 75,000, but State spending for SSI/SSP is 40% below the 2007-2008 level. Low SSI/SSP is a big reason California has the highest poverty rate in the nation, by the Census Bureau's Supplemental Poverty Measure. Over half of California's one million on SSI/SSP are women, many are becoming homeless.

California's budget is now running multi-billion-dollar surpluses. Over 150 California advocacy organizations are demanding an increase in grants and restoration of the COLA for SSI/SSP recipients.

The 2018-2019 budget repeals a decades-old state law that made SSI/SSP recipients ineligible for CalFresh benefits, thus allowing an estimated 375,000 people to apply for CalFresh beginning in June 2019, and not reduce benefits for recipients or their families whose benefits would be reduced by ending the cash out that had previously replaced food stamps. The budget also restores the COLA for the state portion of the SSI/SSP grant beginning July 1, 2022

Where is AB 1434 in the legislative process?

AB 1434 is stuck in the Assembly Appropriations Committee in Submission, meaning basically dead.

What Can You Do to Help Pass AB 1434?

(1) Please get your organization to officially support SB 1434. Contact Hene Kelly, 415-533-5244, henekelly@aol.com, for a support letter template and more details.

(2) Please tell members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee they need to stand up to the Governor and demand he restore funds to the SSI/SSP program. Tell them:

- Bringing SSI recipients up to poverty level is something that needs to be built into the State budget right now! Justice says this is a priority, not something you fund if there's enough money left over in May. California has an over \$21 Billion budget surplus.
- SSI/SSP recipients must be brought to at least poverty level income and have a COLA.
- Low SSI/SSP is a big reason California has the highest poverty rate in the nation.

Assembly Appropriations Committee, updated 4-14-2019					
Dist	First	Last	Party	Phone (916)	Fax (916)
05	Franklin	Bigelow	R(v-chair)	319-2005	319-2105
13	Susan	Eggman	D	319-2013	319-2113
18	Rob	Bonta	D	319-2018	319-2118
20	Bill	Quirk	D	319-2020	319-2120
30	Robert	Rivas	D	319-2030	319-2130
33	Jay	Oberholte	R	319-2033	319-2133
34	Vince	Fong	R	319-2034	319-2134
45	Jesse	Gabriel	D	319-2045	319-2145
49	Ed	Chau	D	319-2049	319-2149
50	Richard	Bloom	D	319-2050	319-2150
51	Wendy	Carrillo	D	319-2051	319-2151
56	Eduardo	Garcia	D	319-2056	319-2156
57	Ian	Calderon	D	319-2057	319-2157
72	Tyler	Diep	R	319-2072	319-2172
73	William	Brough	R	319-2073	319-2173
74	Cottie	Petrie-Norris	D	319-2074	319-2174
77	Brian	Maienschein	D	319-2077	319-2177
80	Lorena	Gonzalez Fletcher	D (chair)	319-2080	319-2180

(3) Please contact

Governor Newsom, (916) 445-2841

Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (916) 319-2063)

Assembly Budget Committee Chair Phillip Ting (916) 319-2019)

Assembly Budget Subcommittee 1 Acting Chair Eloise Gómez-Reyes (916) 319-2047

Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins (916) 651-4039

Senate Budget Committee Chair Holly Mitchell (916) 651-4030

Senate Budget Subcommittee 3 Chair Richard Pan ((916) 651-4006

to demand support for SSI/SSP advocates' budget request for a \$100/month increase in the SSI/SSP base grant, and reinstatement of the Cost of Living Adjustment, COLA. The cost to the state is huge, up to \$2 billion per year, but it is small in comparison to money taken from the State's 1.3 million SSI/SSP recipients. who have had to live at sub-poverty level for the last ten years. Their past misery cannot be erased, but the State can, and must, end it. California has over \$20 billion budget surplus.