

SENATE BILL 1084  
TALKING POINTS

GOAL....PROVIDE ACTIONABLE, SPECIFIC AND LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WILL INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CALIFORNIA'S EFFORTS TO INCREASE FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY BY REDUCING POVERTY IN THE STATE BY 50% BY 2020

- Introduced Feb.17, 2010 by Senator Carol Liu
- Establishes the California Economic Security Task Force for a period of 2 years composed of 17 members
- Connecticut, Delaware, Colorado, Minnesota, Vermont, Virginia have undertaken similar efforts to reduce poverty in their states.
- Poverty is not just about income but rather a lack of access to opportunity, civic participation, information, and resources...Need to help close the gap toward financial security
- Economic security means having the income necessary to cover basic needs expenses (such as housing) among Californians at the family and county level, using both the California Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Standard Index and the California Elder Economic Security Standard Index.
- Poverty is greatly undercounted using current federal measures.

CALIFORNIA FAST FACTS

- The poor live in communities throughout the entire state.
- Three in ten California households—almost 2.9 million households—lack enough income to cover minimal living expenses. According to the United States official poverty measure, the Federal Poverty Level (FPL); however, only one in ten households is officially considered living in poverty.
- Latinos, in particular, are overrepresented among those living in poverty in CA.
- Not just issues for minorities-white households are the second largest group of persons struggling to be economically secure.
- Persons with less education are more likely to have insufficient incomes.
- Single mothers are more likely to be living in poverty.
- In 42% of households who are considered poor at least one person is working full time year round.
- Wages appear not to be sufficient for persons to move out of poverty. A Living wage is the earning rate it takes to meet minimum standards of living in a particular community. Further, it is also the nature of the job that impacts economic security.
- 66% of poor Californian's are headed by US citizens.
- Nearly two thirds of households living in poverty have children.
- The majority of poor households spend over 30% of their income on housing alone.