

2023

EDUCATION AND EQUITY
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

MICHELSON
CENTER FOR
PUBLIC POLICY

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The Michelson Center for Public Policy supports legislation and policies that address the systemic and financial barriers that stunt college students' ability to stay enrolled, graduate, and utilize their degrees to improve their quality of life. We also work towards creating pathways to educational achievement, employment, and economic opportunity for individuals and communities affected by the justice system.

CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Assembly Bill 286
by Jim Wood

Broadband Infrastructure: Mapping

MCPP is supporting this legislation requiring the Public Utilities Commission to update the broadband service map to include information about each broadband service provider that offers services at each address in California, as well as the maximum speed of services offered. It also requires the map to allow individuals to self-report data and refute claimed broadband speed or technology.

Assembly Bill 1588
by Lori Wilson

Affordable Internet and Net Equality Act of 2023

MCPP is supporting this legislation requiring the Department of Technology to develop the Net Equality Program in collaboration with the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of General Services. It would require the state and its agencies to only contract with internet service providers that offer affordable home internet service to low-income households and to require these providers to advertise their affordable services with easy access to sign up.

Assembly Bill 1714
by Jim Wood

Broadband Providers as a Public Utility

MCPP is supporting this groundbreaking change to make significant strides in closing the digital divide by defining that broadband is an essential service and should be regulated as a public utility. This change is disruptive and will be debated in committee in 2024.

HELPING TO ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO EDUCATION

Assembly Bill 607
by Ash Kalra

Public Postsecondary Education: Course Materials

MCPP is co-sponsoring this legislation to provide more cost transparency by requiring the California Community Colleges California State University, and requests the University of California, to prominently display the estimated costs of all required course materials and related fees for 75% of the total number of courses on the online campus course schedule. "Course materials" includes digital and physical textbooks, devices, and software subscriptions.

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Senate Bill 333
by Dave Cortese

Homeless Pupils: California Success, Opportunity, and Academic Resilience (SOAR) Guaranteed Income Program

MCPP is supporting this legislation establishing the California Success, Opportunity, and Academic Resilience (SOAR) Guaranteed Income Program, which would provide a monthly income of \$1,000 for five months to homeless public school pupils in grade 12. The program would be funded by the California SOAR Guaranteed Income Fund, and local educational agency liaisons would help identify eligible participants.

Senate Bill 521
by Lola Smallwood-Cuevas

CalWORKS: Pregnancy or Parenting

MCPP supported this legislation that adds denial of reasonable accommodations as a reason to excuse participation in welfare-to-work activities for pregnant or parenting Californians. SB 521 would also revise references of “teenage parent” in the Cal-Learn Program to refer to “teen” and require the county to exempt a teen from the program in certain destabilizing situations. It would also delete sanctions and related case manager duties for noncompliance in the Cal-Learn Program.

Oregon House Bill 3121
by John Lively and Ricky Ruiz

Appropriates Moneys to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for Purpose of Carrying out Oregon’s Open Educational Resources (OER) Program

MCPP is supporting Oregon legislation requiring the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to conduct a study to identify the most effective ways to increase the affordability of public higher education. This legislation also appropriates funds to the commission to support the implementation of Oregon’s Open Educational Resources Program.

SMART JUSTICE

Assembly Bill 974
by Tina McKinnor

Incarcerated Persons: Certified Record of Live Birth

MCPP is supporting AB 974 which will require local registrars, county recorders, or the State Registrar to issue a certified record of live birth without a fee to incarcerated persons upon request.

Assembly Bill 1418
by Tina McKinnor

Tenancy. Local Regulations: Contact with Law Enforcement or Criminal Convictions

MCPP is supporting this legislation prohibiting a local government from imposing a penalty against a resident, owner, tenant, landlord or other individual because of contact with a law enforcement agency. AB 1418 will also prohibit cities and counties from enacting crime-free housing and nuisance programs designed to force landlords to evict a tenant should they have contact with police or have a prior felony conviction.