



THE ISSUE: AB 1520 *Lifting Children & Families Out of Poverty (Burke, D-Inglewood)* would commit the Legislature to a goal of reducing child poverty by 50 percent over 20 years, and provide a framework of research-backed solutions to achieve it. **(Support)**

HISTORY & BACKGROUND

California has the highest rate of child poverty in the nation according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Supplemental Poverty Measure that accounts for the high cost of living in our state. That translates to one in five children or 1.9 million; and almost one-third of African American children and one-third of Latino children live in poverty.

Efforts to invest in measures to reduce child poverty have been hampered by a lack of sustained focus and a defined, comprehensive plan for addressing the problem. AB 1520 addresses child poverty through the adoption of a *framework* for continued investment in programs and approaches that have been proven to impact poverty in the most cost-effective ways.

AB 1520 establishes a permanent framework through the state budget process, which requires the Legislature to invest in programs that have been proven to significantly reduce child poverty, including: including child care and early childhood education, home visiting programs, after school and summer programs, work force development, Medi-Cal expansion, affordable housing, expansion of the California Earned Income Tax Credit, CalWORKS increases, and Investment in Promise Zones.

In addition, AB 1520 provides for specific accountability measures that will ensure policymakers are able to determine budget priorities based on data collected by the agencies implementing safety-net programs.

CHURCH TEACHING

"The Church's love for the poor . . . is a part of her constant tradition." This love is inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes, of the poverty of Jesus, and of his concern for the poor. . . . "Those who are oppressed by poverty are the object of a preferential love on the part of the Church which, since her origin and in spite of the failings of many of her members, has not ceased to work for their relief, defense, and liberation."

—Catechism of the Catholic Church

TALKING POINTS

- ▶ As people of different faiths, we believe that every child deserves an opportunity to develop to his or her highest potential. The act of putting our poor children first defines who we are, and who we want to be as citizens of a great state.
- ▶ More than one in five California children live in poverty. Impacting poverty of this magnitude requires an unprecedented and comprehensive investment now in proven strategies as well as creative public/private partnerships that, together, serve our common good by caring for children who are poor and most vulnerable
- ▶ AB 1520 will compassionately lift 1 million children out of poverty over the next 20 years through bold neighborhood-based approach that focuses on serving children from cradle, through early childhood learning and after school/summer programs, to college and career.

"In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children, so many children without an education."

—Pope Francis