



CHILD CARE LAW CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALAMEDA COUNTY JUDGE AGAIN SUSPENDS THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD CARE FOR THOUSANDS OF WORKING FAMILIES

*Judge rules that Gov. Schwarzenegger's
line-item veto of child care funds was implemented improperly*

OAKLAND, CA –Alameda County Superior Court Judge Wynne Carvill issued an order today preserving critical child care services for the families of more than 56,000 California children. These child care services support working parents who successfully transitioned off welfare and are providing for their families. The ruling delays Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's last-minute veto and requires the state to give proper notice before cutting the funding off, an action that would have forced thousands of working parents to quit their jobs to take care of their young children and driven them back onto welfare.

The injunction came in a lawsuit filed by Parent Voices Oakland and four California mothers who had been told that their child care assistance, known as CalWORKs Stage 3 child care, would end on November 1. In an October 29 emergency order, Judge Carvill halted the veto until November 5 to give time for a hearing on the evidence. Today's order requires the state to continue Stage 3 child care and instructs the state to issue new notices that advise parents about their options and to use its "best efforts" to screen parents for alternative child care services.

"The Governor's veto is a real jobs killer, forcing single mothers to quit their jobs to care for their children," said Robert Newman, Senior Counsel at the Western Center on Law & Poverty. "The judge's order gives these families breathing room," said Stephen Ronfeldt, Co-Director of the Public Interest Law Project, who argued the case for the petitioners. "We look forward to the court issuing permanent injunctive relief."

The court ordered lawyers to return to court on November 23, at 1:30 pm, to argue the final outcome.

The suit was brought by the Public Interest Law Project, the Child Care Law Center, the Western Center on Law & Poverty, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, Public Counsel Law Center, and Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles.

The Public Interest Law Project provides crucial litigation and advocacy support to local legal services and public interest law programs throughout California. (<http://www.pilpca.org>)

The Child Care Law Center is a national nonprofit legal services organization that works to make high quality, affordable child care available to every child, every family, and every community. (<http://www.childcarelaw.org>)

The Western Center on Law & Poverty, Inc. fights for justice and system-wide change to secure housing, healthcare and a strong safety net for low-income Californians. (<http://www.wclp.org>)

Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County provides free legal services to low-income residents throughout Los Angeles County. (<http://www.nls-la.org>)

Public Counsel Law Center is the nation's largest public interest law firm specializing in delivering pro bono legal services to low-income communities. (<http://www.publiccounsel.org>)

The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) is the frontline law firm for low-income people in Los Angeles. (<http://www.lafla.org>)