



California Latinas for Reproductive Justice

Post Office Box 861766, Los Angeles, CA 90086 • 213.270.5258

CONTACT: Susy Chávez, Director of Communications
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
Email: susy@clrj.org O: 213.270.5258 C: 213.292.0970

FOR IMMEDIATELY RELEASE

Re: Governor Jerry Brown's May 2016 Revised Budget Release

Sacramento, California (May 13, 2016) - The release of Governor Jerry Brown's May Budget Revise today reflects the perpetual indifference that California's leadership has for low-income families and women of color. While Governor Brown's revised budget includes a "1.4% increase to CalWORKS grants," California's welfare-to-work program, it is no where near the increase needed to repeal the punitive Maximum Family Grant (MFG), a holdover from the Pete Wilson era. For the past four years, California Latinas for Reproductive Justice has joined reproductive, social justice, and anti-poverty advocates to fight this racist and classist policy that impacts the lives of poor women and children.

As a reproductive justice organization that works at the intersections of race, class, gender, and immigration status we know that California's MFG policy is especially devastating to our Latino communities. Today, more than two million children in California, including [almost 70 percent](#) who are Latino, live in poverty. According to California Department of Social Services data, 57 to 60 percent of all households affected by the MFG are Latino households. Another 17 to 24 percent of affected households are Black. Perhaps not surprisingly 25 to 33 percent of children affected by the grant live in Los Angeles County, with its [high rate of child poverty](#). Another 31 to 39 percent live in the "Farm Belt" Central Valley.

Research shows that family caps are failed policies that push mostly young, poor, single mothers and their children into dire poverty. With one out of four California children already trapped in the cycle of poverty, poor children and mothers can no longer wait. Let us not forget California's [legacy of eugenics](#) or the fact that women who challenge the MFG are required to [prove their pregnancy](#) was the result of rape or incest, or that one of the state's listed pre-approved birth control methods failed. It is simply unacceptable for this state to continue to try to control the bodies of poor women.

CLRJ understands the lack of money allocation for the repeal of MFG in Governor Brown's May Revise as an affront on the Latino community. The statistical landscape on who MFG impacts speaks for itself: There is no denying that the continued presence of MFG under the leadership of a "pro-choice" governor demonstrates the unwillingness to comprehend the extent of harm this policy has had on Latinas and our families. We call on Governor Brown and the California Legislative leadership to put an end to a failed policy that Californians never wanted in the first place. The best way to help hardworking and struggling California families is to repeal a classist, sexist, and racist policy whose effects are multi-generational and detrimental to hundreds of thousands of children. We strongly believe that California is better than this.

###

About California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ)



California Latinas for Reproductive Justice

Post Office Box 861766, Los Angeles, CA 90086 • 213.270.5258

CLRJ is a statewide organization committed to honoring the experiences of Latinas to uphold our dignity, our bodies, sexuality, and families. We build Latinas' power and cultivate leadership through community education, policy advocacy, and communityinformed research to achieve Reproductive Justice. Learn more about California Latinas for Reproductive Justice at www.californialatinas.org

###