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**SB 570 (Newman) CalWORKs – GI Bill Income**  
**FACT SHEET**

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**ISSUE**

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Established under federal law, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides aid and welfare-to-work services to eligible families. In California, these services are administered through the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKS) program. Under CalWORKS, each county provides assistance through a combination of state, county and federal TANF funds to low income families who qualify.

Existing California law currently exempts G.I. Bill education benefits from being considered in CalWORKS eligibility but is silent as to whether housing stipends available for post-9/11 G.I. Bill recipients or education benefits received by survivors are also exempt from consideration under the CalWORKS program.

Supporting the success of low-income parents in their academic, employment and training goals not only improves their economic opportunities, but research has shown that it makes their children more likely to finish high school and to seek college opportunities for themselves. This two-generation approach to poverty reduction has been recognized nationally as a strategy that works.

**SOLUTION**

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SB 570 will clarify the rules governing income and eligibility for the CalWORKS program, to exempt all education-related benefits paid to our Veterans and surviving family members by the United States Veteran Administration.

This bill will simply ensure that those who have sacrificed for our country-- active duty Military, Veteran and surviving family members-- fully benefit from the G.I. Bill and other US Veteran Administration education payments. It will achieve this by exempting qualified education benefits, stipends or allowances received from the US Veteran Administration from being counted as income or assets for the purposes of determining eligibility for CalWORKs.

**SUPPORT**

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Western Center on Law and Poverty (co-Sponsor)  
Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations (co-Sponsor)  
California Alternative Payment Program Association  
National Association of Social Workers  
The American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees  
California Catholic Conference

California Women's Law Center  
Courage Campaign

(As amended 4/27/17)