

### QUESTIONS ABOUT A.B. 2580

1. How will a "cost effective county plan" be defined?
2. Why shouldn't each county be required to offer the full range of services?
3. Why doesn't the county plan consider the views of the beneficiaries of the program and include their views?
4. Why shouldn't the county plan be subject to public hearings similar to the public hearings that the Community Services Block Grant local plans are subject to?
5. Why are job-search and workfare the only mandatory components of the county plan? Why shouldn't education also be a mandatory component?
6. Why doesn't the bill provide that workfare participants have the first choice of obtaining any job openings at a place where they are doing workfare?
7. Why shouldn't the county and the state have an advisory committee composed of recipients and their representatives to enhance "client empowerment"?
8. Why is this program being implemented statewide, when it is very different from the San Diego County program and it has not been tested yet? Wouldn't it be more prudent to test the program to determine if it is cost effective before implementing it statewide?
9. Would the county be allowed to commence operation of the program with only workfare and job search for several years until the program has been phased in during a five year period?
10. Why is the county allowed to monitor itself to determine effectiveness?
11. Shouldn't there be an independent evaluation of the program on a quarterly basis to protect the taxpayers from spending funds on a program that has not been tested and has no proven record for saving taxpayer dollars?
12. Why doesn't the bill have any provisions for sanctioning counties similar to the sanctions that are imposed upon participants for failure or refusal to adhere to the requirements of the program. Why this inequity?
13. Why doesn't the bill provide for a process of allowing a group of recipients or a recipient organization to sue the county for non compliance?
14. Why does the bill allow counties to provide certain services components only to "target groups" when the bill allegedly gives recipients a "choice" of training or educational components?
15. What guarantee are there in the bill that not all recipients will be placed in workfare?
16. How will registrants be tested to determine their educational need level? Who will do the testing?
17. Will persons without a high school diploma automatically be referred to remedial education?

18. Will the county determine that there are jobs available in the community before participants are referred into the community for a job search?
19. Why doesn't the job search activity have a tie to the unemployment rate of the community? Shouldn't recipients be deferred from job search if the county has a high unemployment rate?
20. Shouldn't recipients be deferred from job search if he or she has no readily marketable skills?
21. Shouldn't workfare operators be required to provide specific skills to workfare recipients and be sanctioned for failure for providing such skills?
22. Shouldn't the workfare participant be allowed to chose the site where they wish to perform their workfare assignment?
23. Shouldn't non-legally responsible caretakers of the child, such as grandparents, be exempt from this program?
24. Shouldn't the bill mandate that the workfare assignment be directly related to the skills for which the participant has been trained?
25. Why should workfare last one-year?
26. Why should the participant be required to do one-year of workfare if he or she only needs 2 months of work experience or the only reason he or she has not been able to find a job is because there are no jobs?
27. Why doesn't the bill address the main problem that welfare recipients are facing, lack---the of jobs? Why doesn't the bill include any job development/job creation programs?
28. Why doesn't the bill provide for payments of actual expenses, as opposed to "necessary" expenses incurred by recipients?
29. Why shouldn't the client be empowered to state in writing what services they need and what expenses they need paid up to an appropriate level?
30. Why shouldn't the participant be empowered to state that they need child care and allow the county to have the burden of proof that the participant doesn't need the child care service?
31. Are there enough available child care facilities in the state to provide child care to about 100,000 additional school age children?
32. Why doesn't a child over the age of 12 years old need child care?
33. Why doesn't the bill mandate that all child care, transportation and other expenses be paid in advance?
34. To protect children why doesn't the bill require a monthly requirement of verifying that recipients are not using their AFDC funds for the expenses of participating in the program?
35. Why doesn't the bill provide for full time child care opportunities to all recipients who are in job search so when they are offered a job they will not have to turn down the job for lack of adequate child care?

36. Why is transitional child care limited to three months? Is this a reasonable length of time?
37. Why doesn't the bill require providing transitional assistance to recipients including other needs such as car insurance, tools, clothing, etc.?
38. Given the fact that persons can be fined \$500 for not having insurance, shouldn't the program exempt recipients who do not have car insurance and doesn't have adequate public transportation?
39. Why is medical coverage limited to 9 months, which is already in state law, when the federal law allows up to 15 months? (The bill only requires such coverage for the minimum federal nine (9) months.)
40. Shouldn't the participant be allowed to take the contract home, to consult with friends, their legal services or welfare rights representative before signing it as a condition of eligibility?
41. To prevent coercion shouldn't the contract contain boxes listing all possible training options and services, whereby the participant can indicate what services and choices they want?
42. Why shouldn't the recipient be allowed to indicate on the contract what, if any exemption from the program they wish to claim and provide for a presumption that the recipient is right and shift the burden of proof upon the county, thereby enhancing "client empowerment"?
43. Shouldn't the independent third party assessment be done by a person who is hired by an independent agency such as the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, to ensure an objective evaluation?
44. Why should children be sanctioned for what their parents do? Is this fair?
45. Why doesn't the bill provide for conciliation prior to sanctioning after the first money management sanction?
46. Shouldn't the bill mandate that the participant search for a job which will provide enough money to meet the needs of the families?
47. Shouldn't the county be required to determine that the job the participant is being trained for will pay over 185% of the grant?
48. Shouldn't the bill have performance standards for the county before they reimburse the counties similar to the performance standards imposed upon the training contractors?
49. Why does the administration anticipate savings from this bill when the MDRC report on the San Diego County Workfare Program indicates administrative costs exceeds savings?
50. Why doesn't the bill specify that the state will cover all expenses that the counties incur in carrying out this program?
51. Why shouldn't the county plan make specific findings of cost effectiveness?

52. Why should recipients be required to work off their child support payments?
53. Why shouldn't recipients be allowed to work off their welfare benefits based on the prevailing wages of the job they perform in accordance with A.B. 1303?
54. Why shouldn't the number of persons placed in workfare be limited to a certain percentage to avoid having most persons placed in workfare in lieu of being offered training and educational opportunities?
55. Why should recipients who have worked off their AFDC grant and food stamp benefits be required to pay back those funds if the county discovers that they were overpaid for some other reason?
56. Why shouldn't workfare sites be bonded?
57. Why shouldn't workfare participants be a member of the bargaining unit to protect them from employer abuse and also enhance their self-esteem by making them feel like they are another employee?
58. Why shouldn't the in-kind supportive services provided under this program be exempt as income for the purposes of determining eligibility for food stamps and AFDC?
59. Why shouldn't the workfare program be consistent with federal law in that it requires that workfare obtain permanent employment for the participants **promptly**?
60. Why shouldn't the bill specify exactly which provisions of the bill need a waiver and which ones do not?
61. Why shouldn't the recipients be allowed to determine that the child care services offered are adequate. Haven't we heard of too many horror stories of child abuse?
62. Will the bill provide funding for recipient representatives to assist them with this program, such as a recipients services center similar to veteran's service center to enhance client empowerment?
63. Why doesn't the bill give priority to volunteers prior to enlisting mandatory participants?
64. Why shouldn't the participant be allowed to challenge a contract dispute at a fair hearing? Why doesn't the bill the language of the contract?
65. Why doesn't the bill require that the contract be written in clear, understandable language, using words with common, everyday meaning?
66. Why doesn't the bill mandate that all contracts and other program materials shall be in the language that the participant considers his or her primary language?
67. Why shouldn't the recipients be allowed to reduce the number of days they have to do job search, if they determine that it is serving no useful purpose.
68. Why does the job counselor have to obtain supervisory approval for reducing the number of days that the participant has to do job search?
69. Why doesn't the program serve long-term recipients on welfare before it serves applicants? The Legislative Analyst report says that is where the emphasis should be placed?

70. Why is the supervisory approval limited to instances of reduction of job search days and not the establishment of job search days?
71. Why should the changing of the component be limited to once during the first 30 days? Doesn't this limit "client empowerment"?
72. Why shouldn't conciliation as provided in Section 5302 be subject to situations of inadequate performance?
73. Why should recipients be forced to continue to participate when the county fails to meet the provisions of the contract? Is this equitable treatment?
74. What types of durational sanctions that are comparable to the sanctions applied against recipients who fail to meet the provisions of the contract are applied towards the county?
75. Will AFDC applicants who have to wait for up to 45 days before their aid is granted be required to participate in the program without funds to pay for their rent, utilities, etc?
76. Will recipients be issued supplemental payments when they lose their jobs and are subject to retrospective budgeting?
77. Is \$3 a day enough to cover lunch, gasoline and other expenses for persons enrolled in the supervised job club?
78. Will jobs exist for all participants in the program??
79. Will workfare participants be allowed to use the facilities of the job site like other workers or will the workfare site operator have a right to impose different standards for workfare recipients and the regular employees?
80. Is \$1.50 an hour a realistic amount to be paid for child care?
81. Will workfare participants be given vacation time, sick leave, comp-time and other benefits that regular workers are allowed with whom they will be working with?
82. What types of sanctions will the bill impose upon the workfare site operators to make sure they do not abuse workfare participants?
83. Will workfare participants be afforded the same parking privileges that other employees working therein enjoy?
84. Will workfare participants be entitled to the same breaks that paid workers therein are entitled to?
85. Will workfare participants be given time off to deal with various family related problems which may not be severe, such as teacher conferences, etc?
86. Why aren't child care funds budgeted for persons who obtain employment but, due to low earning, still receive an AFDC grant?
87. Do the cost estimates assume that no more AFDC recipients will attend community colleges than are now attending?

88. Is there any new funding for community colleges to meet the recipients needs for educational opportunities?

89. Why doesn't the bill language for grant diversion and transitional employment follow the statutory language adopted by states that have successfully implemented such programs?

90. Are there any funds appropriated for professional "personal counseling"?

91. Who determines that the participants needs personal counseling? The participant of the county?

92. How many persons will obtain employment as a direct result of this program?

93. Given the fact that the cost estimates of the bill assume that only 42% of the participants will go off the program as a result of obtaining employment, sanctions, etc., what are the basis for assuming that 52% of the caseload will no longer receive AFDC once they are confronted with the mandatory participation requirement of job-search/workfare?

94. When workfare was tested in California in 1972, the counties where they had a workfare program the caseload increased because poor people thought the best way to get a job is to apply for AFDC. Does the bill cost estimate take this factor into consideration?

95. Is the cost estimate of \$500 per on-the -job training realistic?

96. How could workfare be operated without any cost?

97. How many new county workers will be needed to operate this program?

98. Why do the regulations implementing this program have to be adopted through the "emergency regulation" process, rather than the statutory process given the fact that the program will be phased in within five a five year period?

99. Why doesn't the bill require that the county plans reflect the intent of the program?

100. Why doesn't the bill require that the Private Industry Councils cooperate with the counties in developing the plan consistent with the intent of this bill?

101. The bill requires the counties to develop the availability of services which are currently unavailable within a reasonable period of time. What happens when a recipient is in need of currently unavailable service? Will they be deferred from participation?

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