



March 25, 2024

The Honorable Alex Lee  
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 124  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2141 (GIPSON): Cash Assistance Programs: Direct Deposit.  
As Introduced — OPPOSE  
Set for Hearing April 2, 2024 in Assembly Human Services Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Lee:

On behalf of the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), Urban Counties of California (UCC), and Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) we are writing in respectful opposition to Assembly Bill 2141 (Gipson).

Specifically, this measure would require direct deposit of the Cash Assistance Program for Aged, Blind, and Disabled Legal Immigrants, CalWORKs, and general assistance aid provided under Section 17000 – and requires counties to inform recipients of their right to direct deposit. Our organizations have concerns with requiring counties to offer direct deposit for general assistance. While the state requires counties to provide general assistance, counties have the discretion under current law to set the amount, duration and local rules for receiving general assistance. The Legislature has not mandated changes to general assistance in several decades.

While well-intentioned, counties are concerned that AB 2141 imposes additional new costs on county human services agencies to set up and administer direct deposit for general assistance. This is an unfunded mandate on counties at a time when the Governor has proposed significant cuts to human services as part of the 2024-25 state budget, including nearly \$400 million in cuts to CalWORKs and \$62 million to child welfare services. Under state law, when the state requires counties to perform a new service or a higher level of service, counties can recoup their costs by filing state mandate claims – which counties would do to cover the costs associated with AB 2141. Counties believe limited state resources should be prioritized to reduce cuts to core human services programs – not to expand services or create new requirements on counties.

For the reasons outlined above, CWDA, UCC, and RCRC respectfully oppose AB 2141. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to have your staff contact our organizations.

Sincerely,



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cc: The Honorable Mike Gipson, Member, California State Assembly  
Members and Consultants, Assembly Human Services Committee