

**Please join us for a briefing regarding a recently released RAND Corporation study of causes leading to the significant decline in welfare caseloads over the past decade.**

**Date:** Monday, February 23, 2004

**Time:** 2:00 pm

**Location:** Rayburn 2257

***Refreshments will be available.***

One of the key goals of welfare reform--the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act of 1996 and the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids/CalWORKs program--was to "cut dependency"; i.e., to move welfare recipients into the labor force and off of welfare. Welfare caseloads have dropped dramatically, by over half from their peak.

This RAND Corporation study estimates the effect of individual welfare reforms--benefit levels, financial incentives for work, sanctions for non-participation in welfare-to-work activities, and time limits--and the business cycle on the welfare caseload. The study then uses the estimated effects to explain the national caseload decline and the California's smaller caseload decline. The study should be of interest both to those considering changes to existing state welfare policy and to those considering the renewal of federal welfare legislation (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families--TANF).

**The study was led by Jacob Klerman**, a Senior Economist at RAND and Professor of Economics in the Pardee RAND Graduate School of Policy Studies. At RAND, Klerman directs the RAND Center for the Study of Welfare Policy. Klerman is also the Director of the RAND Statewide CalWORKs Evaluation, the soon to conclude official evaluation of welfare reform in California. The study to be presented today builds on that review using more recent data and improved methods.

Please RSVP: Wendy Moltrup 703-413-1100 ext. 5938 or [moltrup@rand.org](mailto:moltrup@rand.org)

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