



CALIFORNIA LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

March 30, 2020

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the CA Latino Legislative Caucus, we write to you regarding the urgent need to adopt specific policy measures to protect some of our state's most vulnerable residents during this COVID-19 pandemic. Though our state, through your strong leadership, leads the nation in its efforts to limit the spread of the disease, prepare for the medical needs of those infected and minimize the economic impact on residents and businesses alike, there is much more we can do to ensure that our state's undocumented residents are not left behind.

California's two million undocumented residents are an integral component of our social fabric. Like everyone else, they pay taxes, perform essential jobs and aspire to achieve the California Dream. In this great time of need, we cannot overlook their contributions and sacrifices. In fact, we need to meet this moment by providing them with access to emergency relief funding, targeted tax credits and comprehensive health care as detailed below.

1. Create and fully fund a "Disaster Relief Fund" within the Employment Development Department (EDD) for undocumented residents who are unable to work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This fund should provide such individuals with immediate cash relief until the Emergency Proclamation is lifted or they are able to return to work. Relief amounts to be provided through this fund can be modeled on formulas used to determine State Disability Insurance or Paid Family Leave.
2. Remove the prohibition on immigrant filers for the California Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), thereby extending access to all income eligible taxpaying workers in the state. Up to 600,000 income-eligible ITIN holders and 200,000 children would stand to benefit from such a change in policy. The EITC is one of the most successful programs at alleviating poverty across the country. There is no rational basis to continue to exclude taxpaying residents from this program due to their immigration status and lack of a social security number.
3. Extend Medi-Cal benefits to all low-income undocumented adults. Covering undocumented immigrants who are our parents, grandparents, and community members is critical to the continued strength of our economy and society. Undocumented adults make up nearly 1/10th of our workforce and contribute over \$3 billion in local and state taxes, yet they are excluded from the life-saving safety net programs their taxes help fund. Prior to the pandemic, studies showed that 92% of undocumented California adults were employed, however, their lack of insurance contributed to lost productivity and health emergencies. Research consistently shows that providing health insurance has substantial long-term benefits for health outcomes, access to care, financial security and worker productivity.

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Thank you for your consideration of these critical proposals. We look forward to working with you to address all current deficiencies in state law that disproportionately impact some of our most vulnerable members of society. Please do not hesitate to call us or our caucus staff at (916) 651-1535 should you have any questions or need additional information.

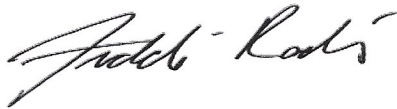
Sincerely,



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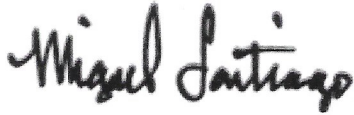
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cc: Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins