



April 9, 2020

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Relief for Undocumented Residents during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Governor Newsom,

We, the undersigned, write to you in regards the urgent need to adopt specific policy measures to address the needs of our state's undocumented community during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your strong leadership to increase the efforts to limit the spread of the virus, prepare our first responders, and create policies to minimize the economic impact California residents and businesses will face. We urge you to include one of the most vulnerable populations of our state, the undocumented community, in your relief proposals.

As you know, more than two million undocumented immigrants make California their home. Nearly one in ten California workers is an undocumented worker. Many of these workers are still working on the front lines to keep California moving and, at the same time, they and their families are also impacted by this pandemic. These individuals will not receive any financial relief from the federal government, although a report from the Institute of Taxation and Economic Policy found that undocumented immigrants contribute over \$3 billion dollars in taxes to California. For these reasons

we must step up and provide relief for them at the State level. California has taken the lead in protecting and expanding rights for undocumented immigrants.

We applaud the California Latino Legislative Caucus (CLLC) for their March 30, 2020 letter regarding the urgent need to adopt several policy measures to protect undocumented residents and we urge to you to take those proposals into consideration to protect some of our most vulnerable residents.

Further, we urge you to exercise your authority to allow access to benefit programs, regardless of citizenship or immigration status, and immediately take the following actions:

1. Create and fund a “Disaster Relief Fund” housed within the Employment Development Department (EDD) for undocumented workers who are unable to work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Disaster Relief Fund should provide qualified individuals with immediate cash relief until the Emergency Proclamation is lifted or until the qualified individual is able to return to work.
2. Allocate \$10 million to Community Based Organizations that are geographically disbursed across the state and are serving undocumented immigrants. The intent of this allocation should be to provide cash benefits to undocumented immigrants so they can pay for groceries, rent/mortgage, emergency home repairs, transportation, medicines, and tools.
3. Broaden eligibility for the California Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), including the Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC), to include all immigrants, and immediately make it retroactive to tax year 2019.

According to a report by the Pew Research Center, approximately one of every 20 residents in San Diego County is undocumented. That is about 170,000 undocumented individuals who contribute to the region and will not be able to access any relief.

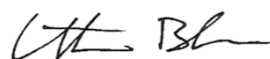
We call upon you to keep California from leaving these hard-working members of our communities and their families behind. As local leaders we look forward to working with you and support our most vulnerable members of our region.

Please do not hesitate to contact Gloria Cardenas with the office of City of San Diego Council President Georgette Gómez at (619) 368-2437, gcardenas@sandiego.gov.

Sincerely,



Mary Salas
Mayor, City of Chula Vista



Catherine Blakespear
Mayor, City of Encinitas



Paul McNamara
Mayor, City of Escondido



Paloma Aguirre
Mayor Pro Tempore, City of Imperial Beach



Alejandra Sotelo-Solis
Mayor, City of National City



Georgette Gómez
Council President, City of San Diego

CC:

Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Honorable Patricia Bates, Senate District 36
Honorable Brian Jones, Senate District 38
Honorable Ben Hueso, Senate District 40
Honorable Marie Waldron, Assembly District 75
Honorable Tasha Boerner Horvath, Assembly District 76
Honorable Brian Maienschein, Assembly District 77
Honorable Todd Gloria, Assembly District 78
Honorable Shirley Weber, Assembly District 79
Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, Chair, CA Latino Legislative Caucus, and Assembly District 80