September 4, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of the State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1876 (Committee on Budget): California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) Expansion to Immigrant Tax Filers – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom,

The CalEITC Advocacy Coalition of over 60 organizations writes to strongly support the inclusion of all low-income Californians in the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) and urges your signature of AB 1876. Full CalEITC inclusion is one of the most strategic and effective ways to make sure all individuals and families are protected by the economic impacts of COVID-19.

With the coronavirus pandemic leading to widespread health and economic consequences, low-wage and immigrant workers are the most vulnerable, particularly those who do not have a Social Security Number (SSN). Our communities by and large are not eligible for the very programs that are supposed to help workers who lose their jobs or have their work hours cut, such as Unemployment Insurance, Paid Family Leave, Paid Sick Leave, and CalWORKS because they do not have a SSN. Inequalities embedded in our worker protection programs, tax systems, and social safety net structures are exacerbated in public health emergencies such as the one we are currently facing, and will have extreme consequences on the long-term health of our state and our communities if we don’t remedy it now.

Our communities have been reliant on mutual aid efforts to survive this pandemic, which is inefficient and ineffective. Our state, however, has the tools and infrastructure to provide meaningful economic resources available to families through the CalEITC. More than a one time cash band aid, full CalEITC inclusion ensures that our efforts to stem the economic impacts of COVID-19 are sustainable and equitable.

The CalEITC, including the Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC), is one of the most powerful, immediate, and critical tools that the state has to help lift families out of poverty. Yet for several years, those who file their taxes with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) have been left out. Including ITIN filers in the CalEITC and YCTC will provide critical support to over 600,000 individuals, including over 200,000 children, and will target resources most effectively while reducing inequality, stimulating the economy, and counterbalancing recessionary impacts that hit immigrant communities and communities of color the hardest.

The time to act is now. The coronavirus does not care where someone is born, nor their immigration status, and neither should California’s response. From years of being targeted by anti-immigrant federal policy, our communities are counting on the state to continue to be a leader for immigrant rights, to take action, and to give all immigrant workers a chance at financial stability. For these reasons, we strongly urge your support of AB 1876 to include all Californians in the CalEITC. If you have any questions, please contact Orville Thomas, CIPC’s Government Affairs Director, at othomas@caimmigrant.org or 916-448-6762 x302.
Sincerely,

Orville Thomas  
Government Affairs Director  
California Immigrant Policy Center  

The CalEITC Advocacy Coalition

1. California Immigrant Policy Center  
2. United Ways of California  
3. Children’s Defense Fund California  
4. ACLU California  
5. Alameda County Community Foodbank  
6. Asian Americans Advancing Justice  
7. Asian Pacific Environmental Network  
8. California Catholic Conference  
9. California Interfaith Coalition  
10. California Association of Food Banks  
11. CAIR California  
12. California Partnerships  
13. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton  
14. California County of Welfare Rights Organizations  
15. California Employment Lawyers Association  
16. California Food and Farming Network  
17. California Food Policy Advocates  
18. California Industrial Areas Foundation  
19. California Labor Federation  
20. California Pan-Ethnic Health Network  
21. California Reinvestment Coalition  
22. California Welfare Directors Association  
23. California Women’s Law Center  
24. Childcare Law Center  
25. Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
26. Courage California  
27. Dolores Huerta Foundation  
28. Drug Policy Alliance  
29. Economic Security Project Action  
30. End Child Poverty CA/The GRACE Institute  
31. Ella Baker Center for Human Rights  
32. Equal Rights Advocates  
33. First 5 Association of California  
34. Friends Committee on Legislation of California  
35. FREE SF  
36. GLIDE  
37. Greenlining Institute  
38. Golden State Opportunity Foundation  
39. Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice  
40. John Burton Advocates for Youth  
41. Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California  
42. Justice in Aging  
43. Latino Coalition for a Healthy California  
44. Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition  
45. Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability  
46. Legal Aid at Work  
47. Lutheran Office of Public Affairs California  
48. National Association of Social Workers  
50. NextGen California  
51. PICO California  
52. Pomona Economic Opportunity Center
53. San Diego Immigrant Rights Coalition
54. SEIU California
55. Silicon Valley Community Foundation
56. Stronger CA Advocates Network
57. TODEC Legal Center
58. UDW AFSCME Local 3930
59. Voices for Progress
60. Western Center on Law and Poverty
61. Young Invincibles