

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
49. National Council of Jewish Women - California Policy Advocacy Network
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