



March 20, 2020

Honorable Toni Atkins
 President pro Tempore, California State Senate

Honorable Anthony Rendon
 Speaker, California State Assembly

Honorable Holly J. Mitchell
 Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

Honorable Phil Ting
 Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget

Dear Legislative and Budget Committee Leaders,

Our organizations write to strongly support the inclusion of all low-income Californians in the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC), including the Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC), and immediately making it retroactive to tax year 2019. It is the most critical, strategic, and effective way to make sure all individuals and families are protected by the economic impacts of COVID-19.

With the coronavirus epidemic 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 do not currently qualify 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. And it is highly unlikely that any federal dollars meant to support individuals and families will include immigrants. 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 facing now, and will have extreme consequences on the long term health of our state and our communities if we don't remedy it now.

The CalEITC, including the 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.

Including ITIN filers in the CalEITC and YCTC immediately, while making the inclusion retroactive to tax year 2019, is the most straightforward way to ensure that individuals and families can get critical resources quickly and efficiently. In addition to the Governor's 60 day tax filing extension, many Californians are able to file their taxes up until October 15, 2020, and people who already filed can amend their returns in order to claim the credits retroactively. The infrastructure is already in place.

After the health crisis of COVID-19 has passed, the economic crisis is sure to be felt for a long time to come. The coronavirus does not care where someone is born, nor their immigration status, and neither should our 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, and to take action to give all immigrant workers a chance at financial stability. For these reasons, we strongly urge you to immediately expand the CalEITC and YCTC to include all Californians.

Sincerely,

California Immigrant Policy Center
United Ways of California
Children's Defense Fund California
ACLU California
Alameda County Community Foodbank
Asian Americans Advancing Justice
Asian Pacific Environmental Network
California Catholic Conference
California Interfaith Coalition
California Association of Food Banks
CAIR California
California Partnerships
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton
California County of Welfare Rights
Organizations
California Employment Lawyers Association
California Food and Farming Network
California Food Policy Advocates
California Labor Federation
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California Reinvestment Coalition
California Welfare Directors Association
California Women's Law Center
Childcare Law Center
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights Los
Angeles
Courage California
Drug Policy Alliance
End Child Poverty Campaign
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Economic Security Project Action
First 5 Association of California

Friends Committee on Legislation of
California
FREE SF
GRACE
Greenlining Institute
Golden State Opportunity Foundation
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
John Burton Advocates for Youth
Jewish Public Affairs Committee of
California
Justice in Aging
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition
Leadership Counsel for Justice and
Accountability
Legal Aid at Work
Lutheran Office of Public Affairs California
National Association of Social Workers
National Council of Jewish Women -
California Policy Advocacy Network
NextGen California
PICO California
San Diego Immigrant Rights Coalition
SEIU California
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
TODEC Legal Center
UDW AFSCME Local 3930
Voices for Progress
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Young Invincibles