



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