



205 S. Broadway, Suite 402
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213.482.8200
www.cfpa.net

April 6, 2020

Senator Mike McGuire
Chair, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
California State Capitol Office 408

RE: Support for AB 1593 EITC Immigrant Equity Act

Dear Chair McGuire,

The California Food Policy Advocates is proud to support AB 1593 (Reyes). This bill extends eligibility for the existing California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) to some of the most vulnerable working Californians, including all working Californians who file taxes and are income eligible.

California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) is a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. Drawing on our core understanding that there are many social, political, and economic determinants of food insecurity CFPA employs a variety of advocacy strategies to fulfill our mission. AB 1593 furthers our mission by extending greater economic opportunity working immigrant families, a population that will be hit especially hard by the COVID-19 economic shutdown.

Full inclusion in the CalEITC 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 novel 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 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 and the tax rebate provisions of the federal COVID-19 response package. 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 immediately.

The CalEITC, 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 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.

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, California Food Policy Advocates is pleased to support AB 1593.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabrielle Tilley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Gabrielle Tilley, Policy Advocate