

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



Governor Newsom,

The clergy and leaders of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) ask you to protect our vulnerable neighbors: the undocumented. Our state is home to more than 2 million undocumented immigrants, and 1.75 million of them are an essential part of our workforce. This crisis reveals just how essential they are; many continue to go to work every day to ensure that our food supply chain remains intact, but do so at great personal health risk to themselves and their families. Others who work in hospitality or services are now out of work with no help coming from unemployment or the federal relief bill. Even so, many are volunteering in our institutions to care for others' children, and deliver food to elderly neighbors.

Your leadership has kept many of us in California safe and secure during these difficult times. We particularly applaud your efforts to prevent evictions, foreclosures or utility shutoffs, and to waive eligibility redeterminations for important safety net services. Much more is needed to ensure that workers who are so essential to our economy are included in all the efforts to protect, heal, and rebuild California.

Specifically, the California IAF organizations call on you to:

- Expand eligibility to State Disability Insurance (SDI) to workers unemployed as a result of COVID-19 but ineligible for Unemployment Insurance (UI).
- Send payments of \$1200 to all Californians who qualified for the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) last year or this year, as well as to any filer who used an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) and meets the same income levels as the CalEITC.
- Permanently expand the CalEITC to include ITIN filers.
- Ensure that COVID-19 treatment (not just testing) is covered under Emergency MediCal.
- Expand no-cost or low-cost hotel options to workers who are essential to maintaining California's food supply.
- Make more money available to food banks and school districts to expand their capacity to get food and information about new relief programs to families in need.

We are making these proposals because the majority of undocumented men and women are workers, an essential part of the social and economic fabric of California. They should be regarded as such during this pandemic emergency. The failure of our federal immigration system does not justify a failure to respond to our neighbors. The bipartisan indifference to the plight of undocumented immigrants has placed an undue burden on these essential neighbors of our community and has aggravated the vulnerability we all feel.



We believe that this is an effective and targeted approach to help those who are most in need. COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on the lives of so many Californians, leaving in its wake death, isolation, joblessness, depression, and insecurity. As a state we have come together in many ways to reduce its impact. But we as Californians must do more to ensure that our brothers and sisters, so critical to our society yet so neglected, are treated fairly.

Be assured of our commitment to prayers as you seek to end the Pandemic. May God grant you holy wisdom and divine mercy in this as well as all your endeavors to serve the People of California.

Respectfully,

Jaime Soto
Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento

Mark W. Holmerud
Bishop, Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Lucinda Ashby
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real

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