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Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Budget & Policy Priorities 2019

The California Asian Pacific Islander (API) Legislative Caucus represents and advocates for the interests of the diverse Asian & Pacific Islander American (APIA) communities throughout California. Furthermore, it seeks to increase APIA participation and representation in all levels of government.

The API Legislative Caucus established the following policy priorities to address issues important to the Asian & Pacific Islander American community.

BUDGET PRIORITIES

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

- **California Commission on Asian Pacific Islander American Affairs**

The California Commission on APIA Affairs was established through legislation in 2002 to advise the Governor and Legislature on the views, needs and concerns of the state's API communities. They accomplish this by being an effective liaison between API communities and state government. The Commission examines issues such as language access at state agencies, departments and commissions. However, they do not have any funding to conduct these activities, which limits the extent it can recognize and address our populations' challenges.

Nearly six million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders reside in California, which represents 16% of the state's population and is the fastest growing racial demographic. As home to the largest Asian American and second largest Pacific Islander population in the country, California has a responsibility to represent the diverse needs of these communities.

The API Legislative Caucus has requested \$500,000 to allow the Commission to fully execute its statutory responsibilities.

- **Status:** This budget request was approved by Governor Newsom.

- **Youth & Family Civic Engagement Initiative – Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Center & Dolores Huerta Foundation**

The Youth and Family Civic Engagement Initiative is a collaborative initiative of the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center and the Dolores Huerta Foundation. The initiative increases understanding of government and civic institutions and increases civic participation among low-income, disenfranchised youth and their families in target regions throughout the state. Reducing civic engagement disparities in these communities is important to strengthening our democratic institutions.

The API Legislative Caucus is supporting a request for \$12,000,000 to be disbursed over three years July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2022 to provide sustaining support for the Youth and Family Civic Engagement Initiative.

- **Status:** The final budget approved by Governor Newsom included \$6 million, over three years, for this program.

HIGHER EDUCATION

- **College Readiness Block Grant**

California's future depends on reinvesting in public education and ensuring that every California student, regardless of socioeconomic background, has an equal opportunity to attend and graduate from one of our state's public universities. The College Readiness Block Grant provided funding to: K-12 school districts and local educational agencies (LEAs) for college readiness and competitiveness activities; the University of California to promote success and graduation through outreach, enrollment and retention services for low income and underrepresented students; and an increase in additional UC enrollment slots.

The API Legislative Caucus has requested a reinvestment of \$220 million to advance equity and access for K-12 public school students—particularly low income, English learners, or foster youth of all backgrounds—to successfully prepare for and graduate from California's public universities.

- **Status:** The final budget approved by Governor Newsom allocated \$6 million to the UC for outreach to high schools with high populations of underrepresented groups and 2,500 new UC enrollment slots.

HEALTH

- **Health4All**

The API Legislative Caucus continues to advocate for equitable healthcare access and supports removing the immigration status eligibility requirement to full-scope Medi-Cal for income-eligible adults.

- **Status:** The final budget approved by Governor Newsom extends Medi-Cal eligibility for undocumented adults who are 25 and under and meet the income threshold.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

BUSINESS

- **AB 308 (Muratsuchi)- Veterans Small Business**

AB 308 lowers the annual minimum franchise tax for small businesses and microbusinesses, and repeals the sunset date on the exemption for limited liability companies that are small businesses solely owned by a deployed member of the United States Armed Forces.

- **Status:** This bill was signed by the Governor.

- **AB 1696 (Chau) - California International Trade and Investment Office**

Requires the Director of GO-Biz to establish a process for certain public and nonprofit organizations to submit proposals on the establishment or operation of an international trade and investment office in a foreign country.

- **Status:** This bill was held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

EDUCATION

- **AB 15 (Nazarian)- Children's Savings Account**

AB 15 would establish the Children's Savings Account Program under the Scholarshare Investment Board. The Board would administer a master 529 account held by the State. Each child born in California would be automatically enrolled in this program and receive an initial seed deposit from the account to jumpstart college savings. The account would also provide incentive money to children for school accomplishments.

- **Status:** This bill was held in Senate Education Committee.

- **AB 39 (Muratsuchi)- Increased Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Targets**
AB 39 establishes new, higher LCFF base rate targets funded by growth in the Proposition 98 guarantee to address districts' fixed cost needs and to set forth goals for California to attain, at the very least, the national average in per pupil funding. In its 2018-19 Proposition 98 Education Analysis, the Legislative Analyst's Office noted that, "Increased base rates would provide both high- and low-poverty districts additional general purpose funding to accommodate these cost pressures."

All districts would benefit from increased investments to public education for a variety of purposes, including: scaling up high school programs to offer a full range of college and career preparation options; additional support for special education; additional support for English language learners; providing a broad range of professional development opportunities for new and veteran teachers; and implementing other strategies designed to enhance student achievement and close the achievement gap.

- **Status:** This bill is on the Senate inactive file.
- **AB 331 (Medina, Bloom, Bonta, Gonzalez, Ramos, Weber)- Ethnic Studies**
AB 331 requires a semester of ethnic studies as a high school graduation requirement. A stand-alone course in ethnic studies is critical for all students—without exception—to obtain a greater understanding about our history as a nation. This course also gives students a more sophisticated understanding of their own cultural identity and that of their peers. Studies have shown that not only are students empowered by these courses, but their academic performance improves and graduation rates increase. Research also indicates that students with more racial awareness are more civically engaged which benefits our society as a whole.
 - **Status:** This bill was held in Senate Appropriations Committee.
- **AB 479 (Nazarian)- Healthy, Climate-Friendly School Meals**
AB 479 would incentivize healthy, climate-friendly meals in California's public schools by providing an additional reimbursement to schools that serve a plant-based entrée or milk option. AB 479 proposes to offer grants to schools for training and technical assistance needed to scale up their healthy, plant-based food offerings.
 - **Status:** This bill is in Senate Appropriations Committee.
- **AB 1460 (Weber, Chiu)- California State University Ethnic Studies**
AB 1460 requires an Ethnic Studies course requirement in the California State University (CSU) system to ensure their graduates are exposed to the cultural competencies and social justice history of the United States necessary for navigating a multi-cultural, rapidly evolving nation.
 - **Status:** This bill was held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

HATE CRIMES

- **AB 301 (Chu)- 2018 Hate Crimes Audit Recommendations**
To address findings and recommendations from the 2018 State Audit Report "Hate Crimes in California", AB 301 takes steps to improve hate crime reporting, data collecting, identification, prevention, outreach, and education about hate crimes.
 - **Status:** This bill was held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

- **AB 1052 (Chu)- Hate Crime Training for Peace Officers**
AB 1052 will require peace officers to undergo comprehensive training on hate crimes. The bill specifically requires peace officers to watch a specified hate crime video course that was developed and released by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). It also requires all in-service peace officers to take a refresher course on hate crimes every three years and that POST develop and periodically update this refresher course.
 - **Status:** This bill was held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

- **AB 4 (Bonta, Chiu) - Health4All: Medi-Cal for Undocumented Adults**
AB 4 removes a barrier to health access due to immigration status and brings California closer to ensuring that every Californian has comprehensive, affordable, and accessible care. AB 4 would provide comprehensive, full-scope Medi-Cal to low-income undocumented adults whose incomes are at or below 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL) by removing immigration status as eligibility exclusion.
 - **Status:** The substance of this bill was incorporated into a budget item.
- **AB 8 (Chu)- Mental Health Services in K-12 Schools**
AB 8 requires at least one mental health professional on all K-12 schools and establish a ratio of one mental health professional per every 400 students, while allowing flexibility for smaller schools to meet the requirements.
 - **Status:** This bill is in Senate Health Committee.
- **AB 283 (Chu)- Repeal CalWORKs Penalties**
AB 283 removes regressive and ineffective financial penalties placed on families receiving California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) benefits. These financial penalties were established by the Pete Wilson Administration to help achieve worthwhile policy goals, but they do not work. In fact, these economic penalties increase the irreparable harm that vulnerable CalWORKs children are already enduring in deep poverty, making public health and educational attainment goals even further out of reach.
 - **Status:** This bill was vetoed by the Governor.
- **AB 495 (Muratsuchi) - The Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act**
AB 495, the Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act, expands existing programs that regulate harmful cosmetics in California. The bill declares that cosmetics containing certain toxic chemicals are adulterated and cannot be sold in California. In addition, the bill expands the California Safe Cosmetics Program's enforcement authority and requires the program to report cosmetics containing any one of the listed chemicals to the Attorney General.
 - **Status:** This bill was held in Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials.
- **AB 512 (Ting)- Cultural Competency in Mental Health Services**
Californians must have equal access to quality mental health services and the state must make greater efforts to collect the necessary data to pinpoint deficiencies in county mental health programs. County mental health programs are required to develop and submit cultural competency plans to the Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS). Despite efforts to improve cultural and linguistic competency, inequities still exist. AB 512 expands data collection to accurately reflect the cultural diversity of California communities.
 - **Status:** This bill was vetoed by the Governor.

- **AB 680 (Chu)- Dispatcher Mental Health Identification and Crisis Intervention Training**
AB 680 will require that emergency dispatcher training requirements, be increased to include mental health identification and crisis intervention training. This bill will improve the quality of information provided by dispatchers to peace officers for emergencies involving persons with a mental illness, intellectual disabilities, or substance abuse disorders.
 - **Status:** This bill was held in Senate Appropriations Committee.
- **SB 512 (Pan)-Long-term Services and Supports**
SB 512 would establish the California Long-Term Services and Supports Benefits Board (LTSS Board). The LTSS Board will be required to manage and invest revenue deposited in the California LTSS Benefits Trust Fund (LTSS Trust), which SB 512 would create in the State Treasury, to finance long-term services and supports for eligible individuals. SB 512 would additionally create the Long-Term Services and Supports Advisory Committee for the purpose of providing ongoing advice and recommendations to the LTSS Board.
 - **Status:** This bill is in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

- **AB 1113 (Chiu) – Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Agency**
AB 1113 will help to protect our immigrant and refugee communities by promoting and working towards their full integration through the creation of a government agency entitled the “Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Agency.”

Specifically, this bill creates an executive officer position, the Secretary of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, to oversee the agency; as well as two deputy positions, and would help consolidate current services and programs serving immigrants by coordinating state agencies and those services available within local immigrant affairs offices across the state.

By creating a government agency meant specifically to address the needs of immigrants and refugees AB 1113 will demonstrate that our state understands that immigrants are part of what make our nation great and ensure that they are successful.

- **Status:** This bill was held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- **AB 1282 (Kalra)- No Private ICE Act**
AB 1282, the “No Private ICE Act,” prohibits the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) from facilitating or allowing private security guards to detain, take custody of or arrest individuals for immigration enforcement purposes.
 - **Status:** This bill was vetoed by the Governor.
- **AB 1332 (Bonta)- Sanctuary State Contracting and Investment Act**
AB 1332 prohibits any state, city, or county agency from entering into a contract or renewing a contract with a private vendor that also supplies “data broker”, “extreme vetting” (analytics), or “detention facility support” services to federal immigration agencies, on or after January 1, 2020.
 - **Status:** This bill was held in Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- **ACR 1 (Bonta)- Public Charge Resolution**
This resolution condemns the proposed federal regulations on “public charge” that would consider whether immigrants use programs related to health and well-being in deciding whether to deny an immigrant entry into the United States or lawful permanent residence. ACR 1 urges the federal government to roll back the proposed regulations.
 - **Status:** This resolution was chaptered.

- **AJR 19 (Gloria)- Welcome Refugees Resolution**

This resolution welcomes refugees and declares support for the resettlement of refugees in California, no matter their religion, race, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, or country of origin, and calls upon other local governments and communities to join in supporting a stronger national effort to resettle the world's most vulnerable refugees. AJR 19 urges the federal government to resettle all 30,000 refugees that the United States has committed to resettle in the fiscal year 2019, and call on Congress and the presidential administration to raise the Presidential Determination to at least 75,000 refugees for fiscal year 2020.

- **Status:** This resolution was chaptered.

LANGUAGE ACCESS & EQUITY

- **AB 318 (Chu)- Ensuring Readability of Medi-Cal Documents**

AB 318 ensures fair access to benefits for Medi-Cal recipients by improving the readability of the most important Medi-Cal documents for consumers through a workgroup and expert review. The bill also establishes a transparent process for improving the readability of materials in all other threshold languages through field testing of translated documents.

- **Status:** This bill was vetoed by the Governor.

- **AB 849 (Bonta)-Local Redistricting Reform**

AB 849 would reform California's local redistricting laws to improve criteria, transparency and public engagement. These reforms will result in a redistricting process that is fairer to California's diverse communities, more transparent, better organized, and more consistently-applied across all local governments.

- **Status:** This bill was signed by the Governor.

- **AB 1391 (Bonta)- Language Access in Voting Awareness Act**

AB 1391 would increase awareness of the availability of translated voting materials for California's limited-English proficient (LEP) voters.

- **Status:** This bill was vetoed by the Governor.

WORKER PROTECTIONS

- **AB 647 (Kalra)- Safety Sheet Disclosure**

AB 647 requires manufacturers of cosmetics who are required by federal and state law to create and distribute Safety Data Sheets (SDS) to post those to an internet website in a way that is accessible to salon professionals and owners. It also requires that SDSs be translated into the most prominent languages spoken by salon professionals including Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Korean.

- **Status:** This bill was signed by the Governor.

Please contact Cat Nou, Chief Consultant of the CA Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, at cat.nou@asm.ca.gov or (916) 319-3686 for more information.