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April 3, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, I write in support of our undocumented immigrant population in California, including the nearly half a million undocumented Asian immigrants. Your stewardship during this pandemic is to be commended and we hope that you continue to demonstrate your leadership by implementing inclusive policy measures to protect some of our most vulnerable populations.

Millions of immigrant workers and their families have been excluded by the federal government in the recent aid package designed to provide relief in this moment of crisis. COVID 19 affects everyone and does not make distinctions because of immigration status. Many immigrant workers are still considered essential workers picking food in the fields, providing healthcare for Californians in hospitals and homes, and toiling in and cleaning hotels and motels currently housing first responders and our homeless. Although the federal government has excluded many immigrant workers and their families from aid, California can lead the way and show the nation what an effective, inclusive recovery looks like.

We join with the California Latino Legislative Caucus and numerous advocacy and labor organizations like Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Asian Pacific Environmental Network, CAIR-CA and SEIU California to recommend the following:

1. Extend Medi-Cal for all low income undocumented adults.
2. Remove barriers to allow all income eligible tax paying workers, regardless of status, to file for the California Earned Income Tax Credit.
3. Establish a "Disaster Relief Fund" within the Employment Development Department for undocumented workers unable to work due to COVID 19.

These measures will help close the gap left by our federal government and alleviate insecurity, fear, hunger and suffering within these vulnerable populations. As Californians, we must stand united and lift everyone up together. Thank you for your consideration of these proposals. Please contact Cat Nou, Chief Consultant to the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, at cat.nou@asm.ca.gov or (916) 319-3686.

Sincerely,

DAVID CHIU
Assemblymember, 17th AD
Chair, API Legislative Caucus