

MONTEREY COUNTY



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LUIS A. ALEJO, Chair, District 1
GLENN CHURCH, Vice Chair, District 2
CHRIS M. LOPEZ, District 3
WENDY ROOT ASKEW, District 4
MARY L. ADAMS, District 5

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 7530
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Re: SB 227 (Durazo) Unemployment: Excluded Workers Program – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Durazo:

The County of Monterey is pleased to support your measure Senate Bill 227. This bill would create a program to provide unemployed workers who are excluded from Unemployment Insurance due to immigration status with a \$300 per week benefit for up to 20 weeks.

Every day, undocumented immigrants contribute to California's economic prosperity in agriculture, construction, clothing and other industries. California is set to be the world's fourth-largest economy in large part thanks to immigrant labor, yet immigrants continue to be shut out from California's economic success due to unjust exclusions from the safety net.

Without the support of essential safety net programs like unemployment insurance, many immigrant families are forced to exhaust their life savings, accumulate debt, and compromise their health to simply afford basic necessities when they lose their jobs.

SB 227 (Durazo) would establish the Safety Net for All Workers Act, which would create an Excluded Workers Program to be administered by the Employment Development Department. The program would provide workers who are excluded from Unemployment Insurance solely due to their immigration status with \$300 per week, for up to 20 weeks, for each week they are unemployed between January 1, 2025 and December 21, 2025.

By providing unemployment benefits to excluded immigrant workers, California can address inequities, increase economic resilience, and build a California that works for all. For these reasons, the County of Monterey strongly supports your measure SB 227. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the County's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo, Chair
Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Members, Senate Governance & Finance Committee
Colin Grinnell, Staff Director, Senate Education Committee
Ryan Eisberg, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Hon. Anna Caballero, 14th Senate District
Hon. John Laird, 17th Senate District
Hon. Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
Hon. Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
Kalyn Dean, Legislative Advocate, California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)