

**TO:** The Honorable Chris Holden, Chair  
Assembly Appropriations Committee  
**FROM:** Nossaman LLP on behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors  
**DATE:** July 21, 2023  
**RE: SB 227(Durazo) Unemployment: Excluded Workers Program- SUPPORT**

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The County of Monterey is pleased to support Senate Bill (SB) 227 by Senator Maria Elena Durazo. 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 of Monterey's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,



Ashley Walker  
Nossaman LLP

**CC:** Honorable Maria Elena Durazo, California State Senate  
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Bill Lewis, Assembly Republican Consultant  
Hon. Dawn Addis, 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Hon. Anna Caballero, 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Hon. John Laird, 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District

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Hon. Robert Rivas, 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)  
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)