

 **NOSSAMAN** LLP | Memorandum

TO: The Honorable Buffy Wicks, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
FROM: Nossaman LLP on behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors
DATE: June 14, 2024
RE: **SB 227 (Durazo) Unemployment: Excluded Workers Program– SUPPORT**

The County of Monterey is pleased to support Senate Bill (SB) 227 by Senator Maria Elena Durazo. This measure will 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 immigrant 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, et 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 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: Hon. Senator Maria Elena Durazo, Author, California State Senate
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Hon. Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
Hon. Anna Caballero, 14th Senate District, Author
Hon. John Laird, 17th Senate District
Hon. Speaker Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
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