Dear friends:

We are facing a moment in history that will define us for years to come. Our families, our communities, and our most deeply-held principles are under attack from a federal administration devoted to discrimination and exploitation.

And from the airports to the streets, Californians are coming together to stand up for what we believe.

Ten million immigrants call the Golden State home, hailing from all corners of the Globe, and nearly three million Californians are undocumented. As neighbors and loved ones, parents and children, workers and students, immigrants are deeply rooted in communities across the state.

This year, we must fight to honor the fundamental ideal that all people are created equal. We must uphold our common humanity.

Thus, the California Immigrant Policy Center is pleased to share this state policy agenda, which presents crucial legislative, budgetary and administrative advocacy the organization is leading or co-leading.

To learn more please visit www.caimmigrant.org

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE & PUBLIC BENEFITS

Newly Qualified Immigrant (NQI) Wrap
Budget Advocacy

Currently, low-income “qualified immigrants” subject to the 5-year federal bar, ages 21-64 and without children, receive health care through state-funded Medi-Cal. Starting in 2018, this population is to be transferred over to Covered California with certain “wrap-around” services provided by Medi-Cal (benefits not included in Covered CA such as adult dental). The Department of Health Care Services would pay premium and out-of-pocket cost for this population. During last year’s budget cycle, CIPC and advocates raised a number of concerns related to challenges immigrants may face with disruption in coverage and if they were subject to a tax penalty from the federal government because of these provisions. To mitigate these concerns, this year’s proposed budget includes that all new qualified immigrant adults be included in the wrap program, excluding those pregnant or eligible for Medicare. CIPC will continue to work with partner advocates to urge the legislature and the Brown administration to keep this population in Medi-Cal so there is no negative impact on the health care coverage of this population.
Expand County Safety-Nets for Undocumented Residents

On the local level, significant advancement on Health4All has been made to provide health care coverage through county safety-net programs to undocumented county residents. Forty-seven counties out of fifty-eight counties have already expanded their safety-net programs to undocumented residents; the type of coverage and how many individuals the program will serve vary by county. Given the threat to repeal the ACA and cuts to Medicaid, we believe the county’s role to provide care to the uninsured, including the undocumented, will be very important. Counties that are currently providing care to undocumented residents should remain strong and counties that have no existing safety-net program should set up a program for the uninsured that includes the undocumented. This year, CIPC will be working with local health and immigrant rights advocates to preserve existing safety-net programs for the remaining uninsured that are truly inclusive and robust by expanding the scope of services, increasing slots, or creating a permanent program. We will also monitor the implementation of county safety-net programs that have expanded care to undocumented people.

ENDING DETENTIONS AND DEPORTATIONS

AB 3 (Bonta) Stronger Public Defenders Act | Sponsored by CIPC, ACLU of California, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, and California Public Defenders Association

Changes in federal immigration law significantly increased the deportation grounds for even minor criminal convictions, while also limiting judicial review and discretion in immigration cases for both lawful residents and undocumented immigrants. In recent years, increased federal immigration enforcement prioritizing persons with criminal convictions has resulted in the deportation of hundreds of thousands of California residents and permanent separation from their families. California does not currently provide funding to do this work, and only a handful of counties are able to provide some level of service. AB 3 (Bonta) will help public defenders competently represent immigrant Californians and help them avoid deportation consequences.

AB 208 (Eggman) Deferred Entry of Judgment | Sponsored by CIPC, ACLU, CHIRLA, Drug Policy Alliance, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, and MALDEF

California law provides for deferred entry of judgment for minor nonviolent drug offenses, that mostly involve possession or use of drugs. A defendant is required to plead guilty, waive his or her right to a speedy trial, and complete a drug treatment program. If the program is completed, the criminal case is dismissed. Noncitizen defendants charged with these offenses, including misdemeanors, are often incorrectly advised or believe that pleading guilty with a deferred entry of judgment will not count as a conviction for any purpose. However, under federal immigration laws, post-plea deferred entry of judgment programs, under CA Penal Code are still considered a conviction for immigration purposes, even if the defendant successfully completed the program, the case is dismissed, and the conviction no longer exists under state law. AB 208 would provide pretrial diversion, instead of post-plea deferred entry of judgment, for minor drug offenses. This bill will eliminate unintended federal consequences that flow from minor drug offenses including deportation, and provide greater flexibility for courts. This bill will keep California families together.

SB 6 (Hueso) Due Process for All Act | Author Sponsored
CIPC continues to coordinate and lead the California Coalition on Universal Representation, a statewide coalition that advocates for universal access to legal representation for everyone held in detention. SB 6 takes significant strides towards providing universal access to representation by launching a state-funded program to provide attorneys to people in removal proceedings, including the establishment of a public-private fund. The bill bars from eligibility for services any individual who was previously convicted of a “violent felony”, unless an attorney determines the individual has a meritorious claim for relief. SB 6 will be a vital lifeline—the last line of defense for many of our residents in the facing of increasing raids and deportations.

**SB 54 (de León) CA Values Act | Author Sponsored**

Ending local law enforcement entanglement with ICE is urgently necessary for ending mass detention and deportation and protecting California’s immigrant communities. SB 54 would prohibit state and local law enforcement agencies, including school police and security departments, from engaging in immigration enforcement or using any state or local resources in carrying out enforcement activities. SB 54 also expands the TRUST Act by prohibiting the transfer of any individual into federal custody for deportation without a judicial warrant. The bill also instructs the Attorney General to create model policies that limit immigration enforcement on the premises of sensitive locations, including schools, hospitals, clinics and courthouses. SB 54 is the strongest anti-deportation measure in the nation, and CIPC is committed to getting this vital bill over the finish line in the strongest form possible. CIPC encourages community partners to participate in this critical campaign.

Recently, the bill was amended to include public safety provisions that codify into state law existing local law enforcement practices, preserving the ability of local agencies to cooperate with federal agencies as it pertains to the following activities: sharing the CLETS law enforcement database with the federal government, participating in joint task forces with the Department of Homeland Security (so long as the taskforces are not primarily aimed at conducting immigration enforcement) and notifying the federal government any time any individual with a “violent felony” conviction under Penal Code Section 667.5(c), including a nonimmigrant, is released from state prison or a local jail (so long as the jail is not in a jurisdiction with a policy barring such notification). However, the bill creates important protections for immigrants in the criminal justice system, including an end to local jails and state prisons holding or transferring an individual at the behest of ICE. CIPC supports efforts to advance the principle of equality under the law and ensure passage of the strongest possible bill.

Additionally, California should not be participating in any federal efforts to target or register community members based on their religion. **SB 31 (Lara)** would prevent public agencies and their employees from assisting with or providing personal information for any federal registry based on an individual’s religious, ethnic or national origin. It would also prohibit law enforcement agencies from using public resources to investigate or enforce any violations related to such registry.

**SB 244 (Lara) | Sponsored by CIPC & ACLU of California**

California has an interest in protecting the private information of residents from inappropriate uses. SB 244 would enhance privacy and confidentiality protections in our state’s databases to ensure that it is only used for its intended purposes. SB 244 (Lara) would require that records containing personal information only be collected, used, and retained for the purpose of assessing eligibility for and providing those public services and programs for which the application was submitted. Further, it would prohibit disclosure of this information from the California DMV database except when a warrant is issued.
Continued Advocacy to End Detentions and Deportations - State and Local Strategies

CIPC remains committed to coordinating the ICE Out of California Statewide Coalition which serves as a central space for organizations and coalitions across the state to strategize and share the work they’re doing to pushback on collaboration between local law enforcement and ICE. CIPC is also actively involved in working alongside local coalitions across the state to advance stronger local policies that seek to decriminalize immigrants with convictions and to create clear lines between local law enforcement and immigration enforcement efforts.

IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION

“One California”- CDSS Immigration Services Funding
Budget Advocacy

CIPC leads the One California Coalition’s efforts to ensure state funding for the “One California” CDSS Immigration Services Funding reflects the needs of our diverse immigrant communities. When we support immigrants with what they need to contribute, participate in the civic process, and further succeed, we help build shared prosperity for all Californians. Our state’s continued economic growth depends on strategic investments that build on opportunities to lift up our diverse communities. As immigrants face harsh anti-immigrant federal immigration policies, California must maintain a $30 million investment in “One California” to support qualified and culturally competent services that ensure immigrant residents understand their rights and access affirmative immigration remedies or citizenship.

ADMINISTRATIVE ADVOCACY

Workforce Development & Adult Education

While California has enacted policies to reduce barriers to higher education and economic mobility, there is much work to do to ensure California’s diverse immigrant population can successfully access all services and opportunities that support meaningful and measurable integration, both including and beyond traditional measures of economic success. Building opportunity for immigrants through adult education and workforce skills policies will support immigrant community members in a more comprehensive way that increases equity for California’s immigrant community and communities of color. CIPC will be engaging in administrative advocacy with the state and local stakeholders regarding the implementation of the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) and opportunities to support adult education and workforce services for immigrants.

Worker’s Rights

CIPC has sponsored legislation over the years to reduce discrimination and labor violations specific to the hiring and the employment verification process. This includes protections against the harmful and flawed E-Verify program as well as discrimination in the I-9 process, more commonly known as Document Abuse. CIPC will continue administrative advocacy and community engagement to ensure the strong implementation and enforcement of these state protections.
CIPC Steering Committee
CIPC’s 2017 Policy Agenda was developed in conversation with our Steering Committee comprised of 14 organizational members, representing coalitions of immigrant communities across the state. The Steering Committee members include: the Alameda County United in Defense of Immigrant Rights (ACUDIR)/ Full Rights Empowerment and Equality – San Francisco (FREE SF) - JOINT SEAT, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles (AAAJ-LA), Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI), California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance (CIYJA), Central American Resource Center in Los Angeles (CARECEN LA), Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC), Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño (CBDIO), Council on American-Islamic Relations - California (CAIR), Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice (ICIJ), Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, Mujeres Unidas y Activas (MUA), San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium (SDIRC), and Services, Immigrant Rights & Education Network (SIREN).

In addition to these priorities, CIPC is actively supporting a number of other proposed legislation to protect immigrants and their families. Join CIPC Membership to access a list of bills our organization is tracking in 2017.

For more information, please contact CIPC’s Director of Government Affairs, Ronald Coleman, at rcoleman@caimmigrant.org.