

SAMPLE LETTER ON ORGANIZATIONAL LETTERHEAD IF APPLICABLE

(date)

The Honorable Kevin Murray
Senate Appropriations Committee, Chair
California State Capitol, Room 4203
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via Fax: (916) 445-8899

Re: AB 2060 (De La Torre): Support

Dear Senator Murray,

On behalf of (your organization) I write to express my support for AB 2060 (De La Torre). AB 2060 will make the Naturalization Service Program (NSP) a permanent program and encourage regional collaboration among the NSP grantees to ensure that services are delivered in an efficient manner.

Naturalization is a key entry point into full civic and political participation for immigrants. As immigrants integrate into society, their investment in the health of our schools, businesses and infrastructure increases. Immigrants make up one quarter of California's workforce; they strengthen our economy through their entrepreneurship; and they enrich our communities. By encouraging immigrants to naturalize, we invest in our state's future.

There are currently 2.7 million immigrants in California eligible to naturalize¹, but there are not enough services to assist them through a process that can be difficult and expensive. California's naturalization rate is among the lowest in the nation², a situation our state can ill afford. AB 2060 will help California position itself to better reap the cultural and economic benefits of its immigrant population by ensuring that immigrants have the information they need to naturalize.

INSERT PERSONAL STORIES HERE OR SERVICES YOUR ORGANIZATION PROVIDES TO NEW IMMIGRANTS

AB 2060 strengthens the ability of immigrants to contribute to their communities as new citizens upon naturalization by:

- Recognizing the continuing importance of the state-funded Naturalization Services Program (NSP) that offers critical programs and services toward citizenship.
- Encouraging coordination of existing services through collaborative, community-based models that have the capacity to reach California's diverse immigrant communities.

California must lead the charge to assist its state's residents to naturalize. By investing in naturalization services, California can help integrate its large immigrant population and ensure that immigrants are able to participate fully in the life of our state.³ For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 2060. Please join us in investing in California's future!

Sincerely,

Name/Title

Cc: The Honorable Hector De La Torre (Fax 916.319.2150), & California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative (Fax 916.448.6774).

¹ Michael Fix, Jeffrey S. Passel, and Kenneth Sucher. "Trends in Naturalization", *Immigrant Families and Workers: Facts and Perspectives Brief No. 3*. Urban Institute. September 2003.

² U.S. Department of Homeland Security. "Estimates of the Legal Permanent Resident Population and Population Eligible to Naturalize in 2002". Prepared by Nancy F. Rytina. May 2004.

³ Hans Johnson, Belinda Reyes, et al., "Taking the Oath: Analysis of Naturalization in California and the United States, 1999.