



California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative

1225 8th Street, Suite 590 ♦ Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone (916) 448-6762 ♦ Fax (916) 448-6774

CIWC BILL UPDATE

JULY 11, 2006 • PAGE 1 OF 5

SEVERAL IMMIGRANT RELATED BILLS SCHEDULED FOR HEARINGS, PLEASE SEND IN YOUR ENDORSEMENTS AND SUPPORT LETTERS TODAY!

Several bills impacting California's immigrants made their way through the legislative process at the end of June including bills on healthcare reform, public benefits, immigration, language access, education, and worker's rights. Most of the bills now make their way to the Appropriations committee and need your support once again. Please consider sending in letters of support today. For more information on the bills and resolutions listed below, please visit www.leginfo.ca.gov/billinfo.html or call Jeannette Zanipatin at 916.448.6762, ext. 202.

Ways to get involved:

- 1) Send in a letter of support or an endorsement form;**
- 2) Assist with lobbying efforts locally or the state level.**
- 3) Help us gather more endorsements from allies.**

CIWC has three sponsored bills this session. Please consider endorsing **AB 2060 (De La Torre) NATURALIZATION SERVICE PROGRAM, SB 1267 (Cedillo) OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS and SB 1569 (Kuehl) ACCESS TO BENEFITS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND OTHER SERIOUS CRIME VICTIMS.** Please see the bill descriptions below and proceed to page 5 for an endorsement form or visit our web site, www.caimmigrant.org, for sample letters of support.

SB 1569 (KUEHL) ACCESS TO PUBLIC BENEFITS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS- CIWC

SPONSORED BILL-SUPPORT- This bill would ensure that human trafficking victims in California have access to state and local services. By providing access to critical state services, immigrant survivors of trafficking, domestic violence and other serious crimes will be better able to cooperate with law enforcement to help prosecute their perpetrators. SB 1569 passed the Assembly Human Services Committee on June 27, 2006 with a vote of 5 to 0. Aye votes included Arambula, Bass, Coto, De La Torre and Spitzer. **SB 1569 will be heard in Assembly Appropriations Committee on August 9, 2006.**

AB 2060 (DE LA TORRE) NEW CALIFORNIANS ACT-CIWC SPONSORED BILL-SUPPORT- This bill would ensure that comprehensive citizenship services remain available to California's immigrant communities. AB 2060 would make the state Naturalization Services Program (NSP) a permanent program. The bill would also restructure the current program by encouraging regional coordination among the grantees. AB 2060 passed with a vote of 4 to 1 in the Senate Human Services committee on June 27, 2006. The aye votes included Alquist, Chesbro, Romero and Maldonado. **AB 2060 will be heard in Senate Appropriations on August 7, 2006.**

SB 1267 (CEDILLO) OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS- CIWC SPONSORED BILL-SUPPORT- This bill would establish an Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) within the Community Services and Development Department. The OIA would work with organizations to ensure the success of the

Naturalization Services Program (NSP), and work toward ensuring the successful integration of California's immigrants. SB 1267 passed the Assembly Business & Professions committee on June 27, 2006 with a vote of 7 to 2. The Aye votes included Negrete-McLeod, Bass, Koretz, Montanez, Nation, Vargas & Yee. **SB 1267 will be heard in Assembly Appropriations on August 9, 2006.**

HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC BENEFITS

SB 437 (ESCUTIA) CALIFORNIA HEALTHY KIDS PROGRAM (CHKIP)-This bill would create the California Healthy Kids Program (CHKIP), which is intended to ensure that the current children's health insurance infrastructure operates in a coordinated and seamless manner. SB 437 would allow more children to have immediate access to health care by expanding "accelerated enrollment," and gateways to health coverage for children who apply for other state services such as WIC, CHDP, and the National School Lunch Program. Children who apply through these gateways will have access to health care at least until a final eligibility determination is made. SB 437 is currently on third reading in the Assembly.

SB 1405 (SOTO) FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT FOR INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION SERVICES-SUPPORT-This bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a task force to determine a federal mechanism to reimburse the State of California for translation and interpretation services for beneficiaries under the Medi-Cal and Healthy Families programs. SB 1405 passed the Assembly Health Committee on June 27, 2006 with a vote of 8 to 2 and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations committee.

SB 1622 (ESCUTIA)-EMPLOYEE NOTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDI-CAL AND HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM-SUPPORT- This bill would require the Department of Health Services and the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) to create an informational pamphlet to advise employees of their potential eligibility for the Medi-Cal and Healthy Families Programs. SB 1622 passed the Assembly Health Committee on June 27, 2006 with a vote of 8 to 4 and has been referred to the Assembly Appropriations committee.

AB 1948 (MONTANEZ)- STREAMLINING ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN INTO HEALTHY FAMILIES AND MEDI-CAL VIA THE CHDP GATEWAY-SUPPORT- This bill would require the State Department of Health Services to conduct a study on the feasibility of creating a one step application process for children enrolling into Medi-Cal (MC) or Healthy Families (HFP). The findings of the study must be submitted to the fiscal and health committees of the Legislature by January 1, 2008. AB 1948 passed the Senate Health committee with a vote of 6 to 3 on June 21, 2006. AB 1948 has been referred to Senate Appropriations committee.

FOOD STAMPS & NUTRITION

AB 2384 (LENO) HEALTHY FOOD PURCHASE PILOT PROGRAM-This bill would create the "Healthy Food Purchase" pilot program to increase the sale and purchase of fresh food and vegetables in low-income communities. AB 2384 passed the Senate Health committee on June 21, 2006 with a vote of 5 to 3 and has been referred to the Senate Appropriations committee.

AB 3029 (LAIRD) FOOD STAMP SIMPLIFICATION ACT- SUPPORT-This bill would make several changes to the Food Stamp Program including to repeal quarterly status reporting and replace it with a semi-annual reporting requirement.¹ The bill would also require the Department of Social Services (DSS) to seek a federal waiver to exempt recipients from face-to-face interviews for food stamp re-certification, which are often difficult for recipients to attend because of work schedules or

¹ AB 3029 distinguishes when a recipient is mandatorily required to report changes in income and when the recipient shall voluntarily report changes in income.

lack of day care. AB 3029 passed the Senate Human Services committee on June 27, 2006 with a vote of 4 to 1 and has been referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.

LANGUAGE ACCESS & EDUCATION

AB 2302 (JONES) ACCESS TO INTERPRETATION SERVICES IN CIVIL COURT PROCEEDINGS- SUPPORT-

This bill would provide court interpretation for persons who are not proficient in English and are involved in civil actions. Currently, there is no requirement that interpreters be provided for limited English proficient individuals in critical cases such as domestic violence, child custody, housing, and consumer protections. AB 2302 passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 27, 2006 with a vote of 3 to 1.

SB 160 (CEDILLO) CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT-SUPPORT- This bill would establish procedures and forms that enable persons who are exempt from paying nonresident tuition under AB 540 to apply for, and participate in, all student aid programs administered by these segments to the full extent permitted by federal law. SB 160 passed the Assembly Higher Education committee on June 20, 2006 with a vote of 5 to 2 and will be heard in Assembly Appropriations on August 9, 2006.

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

AB 630 (CHU)-IMMIGRATION CONSULTANTS-SUPPORT- This bill would help regulate immigration consultants in the state of California who often perform duties to assist immigrants through the immigration process. AB 630 would authorize the Secretary of State to issue a "cease and desist" letter to immigration consultants for being in violation of the state-bonding requirement. AB 630 would also require immigration consultants to have a background check and authorize the Secretary of State to disqualify an immigration consultant for specified reasons. AB 630 was re-referred to Senate Judiciary for a hearing on August 8, 2006.

AJR 51 (NUÑEZ) – FEDERAL IMMIGRATION REFORM – This resolution calls on the President and Congress of the United States to pass comprehensive immigration reform based on a respect for human rights and a path towards citizenship. AJR 51 will be heard in Senate Judiciary on August 8, 2006.

SB 1160 (CEDILLO) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DRIVER'S LICENSE PROVISIONS OF REAL ID-OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED- CIWC strongly supports providing driver's licenses to California's undocumented immigrants to make our roads and communities safer. However, SB 1160 would create different classes of driver's licenses for individuals based on their immigration status, including allowing states to issue marked driver's licenses for immigrants unable to verify their legal status. The Department of Homeland Security has not issued regulations and states have three years to implement the Federal Real ID Act. The federal legislation also requires states to capture digital images of documents submitted to the DMV and to provide other states electronic access to information in the DMV database. CIWC, and other advocates, are concerned about the privacy implications of the Federal Real ID Act and the potential harm to U.S. citizens as well as to immigrants. SB 1160 passed the Assembly Transportation Committee on June 26, 2006 with a vote of 7 to 5.

WORKER'S RIGHTS & VOTING RIGHTS

AB 2536 (MONTANEZ)- MINIMUM WAGE AND OVERTIME COMPENSATION FOR HOUSEHOLD WORKERS- SUPPORT- This bill would extend overtime provisions to household workers. This bill would also allow household workers to recover unlawfully withheld wages or unpaid overtime wages and to recover liquidated damages equal to the wages withheld plus interest. AB 2536 passed the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee on June 28, 2006 with a vote of 3 to 2.

AB 1835 (LEIBER)- MINIMUM WAGE- SUPPORT- This bill would raise the minimum wage from \$6.75 per hour to \$7.25 on or after July 1, 2007 and to \$7.75 per hour on or after July 1, 2008. The bill

would also provide for the automatic adjustment on January 1 thereafter by multiplying the minimum wage by the rate of inflation. AB 1835 passed the Senate Labor & Industrial Relations committee on June 21, 2006 with a vote of 3 to 2 and has been referred to Senate Appropriations.

SB 1162 (CEDILLO)- MINIMUM WAGE-SUPPORT- This bill would raise the minimum wage from \$6.75 per hour to \$7.25 on or after July 1, 2007 and to \$7.75 per hour on or after July 1, 2008. The bill would also provide for the automatic adjustment of the minimum wage at intervals to be determined by multiplying the minimum wage by the rate of inflation. SB 1162 passed the Assembly Labor & Employment on June 21, 2006 with a vote of 6 to 2 and was placed on the suspense file.

Immigrants are a vibrant force in California's changing demographics. More than a quarter of California residents are foreign born; immigrants and their children comprise nearly half of our state's population. Immigrants strengthen our economy through their entrepreneurship and they enrich our communities.

California's immigrants are eager to fully participate in the social, economic and political life of their newly adopted home, but many lack the appropriate tools or information to do so. As home to the largest immigrant population in the country, California must invest now in this population in order to ensure the successful integration of immigrants into our state's social and economic fabric.

- **AB 2060 (De La Torre), Naturalization Services Program** would strengthen the ability of immigrants to contribute to their communities as new citizens upon naturalization by offering critical programs and services toward citizenship. AB 2060 would also encourage the coordination of citizenship services through collaborative, community-based models that have the capacity to reach California's diverse immigrant communities.
- **SB 1267 (Cedillo), Office of Immigrant Affairs** would establish an Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) within the Department of Community Services and Development to ensure the integration and civic participation of new residents in the state. The OIA would advocate and promote cooperation and understanding between government agencies and immigrants, ensure that immigrants receive the assistance they need to fully integrate into our society. The OIA would also work closely with community-based organizations to identify emerging immigrant issues and formulate recommendations.
- **SB 1569 (Kuehl), Temporary Public Benefits for Victims of Human Trafficking** would serve as a bridge for these survivors, helping a small number of persons in great need before they transition to existing state or federal services. The bill would clarify that during this interim period, victims of trafficking and other serious crimes are eligible for existing state and local benefits and services to the same extent as refugees, and would ensure that they have access to a state-funded component of the refugee cash, refugee medical and refugee social service programs.

Yes! My organization/I will endorse the **Naturalization Services Program (AB 2060):**

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Organization: _____ Telephone: _____

Yes! My organization/I also endorse the **Office of Immigrant Affairs (SB 1267):**

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Organization: _____ Telephone: _____

Yes! My organization/I also endorse Temporary **Public Benefits for Victims of Human Trafficking (SB 1569):**

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Organization: _____ Telephone: _____

I can also pledge to:

- ☐ Write a letter of support asking legislators to vote for AB 2060/SB 1267/SB 1569
- ☐ Call/visit my state legislator and ask them to vote for AB 2060/SB 1267/SB 1569
- ☐ Gather profiles of immigrants going through the citizenship process (for AB 2060)
- ☐ Attend local planning meetings to learn more about these and other bills.

For more information contact: Jeannette Zanipatin with CIWC (916) 448-6762, ext. 202
Please **FAX to:** The California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative (CIWC) Fax: (916) 448-6774