

DATE

SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER for SB 1267

The Honorable Judy Chu, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
California State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814
VIA Fax 916.319-2149

RE: Support SB 1267 (Cedillo)-Office of Immigrant Affairs

Dear Assemblymember Chu:

On behalf of (**organization**.) I am writing in support of SB 1267 a bill that would establish an Office of Immigrant Affairs within the Department of Community Services and Development to facilitate the integration of immigrants into California. [**Describe your organization here**]

SB 1267 creates an Office of Immigrant Affairs that would coordinate existing state services and programs for immigrants and their families, act as a repository of information on immigrant issues and affairs, and advocate and promote cooperation and understanding between government agencies and immigrant citizens.

As home to the largest immigrant population in the country, it is critical for California to show leadership in implementing model policies for integrating newcomers into our state. Currently, one in four California residents are foreign born, a rate higher than any other state in the U.S.¹ Immigrants and their children make up nearly half of our state's population and comprise one-third of our state's workforce.² States with smaller immigrant populations like Illinois and Utah already have state-funded offices dedicated to immigrant and/or ethnic affairs. The time is right for California to coordinate its fragmented approach to immigrant policies and programs in California.

An investment in California's immigrants today will benefit the state in the future. California, like the United States, depends upon immigrants to drive economic growth. Immigrants are among California's most productive entrepreneurs. In San Jose alone, immigrant owners of technology companies created more than 58,000 jobs and generated more than \$17 billion in sales during the late 1990s.³ Access to citizenship services, support programs, and civic participation opportunities are key components of successfully integrating immigrant families into our state's social, political, and civic fabric. All Californians benefit when our diverse communities are healthy and strong.

Accordingly, I strongly support SB 1267 and urge its immediate passage.

Sincerely,

(Name)
(Organization)

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. Census 200 Brief. *The Foreign Born Population*. 2000. Issued Dec, 2003.

² *Ibid.*

³ Saxenian, Annalee. 2002. Local and Global Networks of Immigrant Professionals in Silicon Valley. Public Policy Institute of California: San Francisco.

CC: Senator Gilbert Cedillo (FAX 916. 327.8817) & the California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative
(FAX 916.448.6774)