



WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Antonio Gonzalez, President of the William C. Velasquez Institute: “I salute Senate Pro Tem De Leon and Speaker Atkins. Through your leadership of the California Assembly and Senate our state is becoming the example of justice for immigrants for all America to emulate. California’s example should send a wake-up call to Congress to do their job and promptly legalize America’s undocumented population.”

Art Pulaski, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, California Labor Federation: “Immigrant workers face innumerable challenges every day in pursuit of better lives for themselves and their families. With comprehensive immigration reform held hostage in Congress, we’re proud to support these measures to ensure immigrant workers and their families are able to emerge from the shadows and fully participate in the American Dream.”

Michelle Carey, Senior Attorney Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice: “The proposed legislation will expand protections and services that will create not only safer and healthier immigrant communities, but a stronger California. The Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice (LACLJ) has provided legal advocacy, including a range of immigration services, to low-income and primarily immigrant populations in Los Angeles for over 40 years. Through our work, we regularly see both the barriers immigrants face and their vital contributions to our community. These bills will help our clients and their communities establish basic stability and ultimately thrive.”

Angelica Salas, Executive Director, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles: “We applaud Senate President Pro-Tem Kevin De Leon and Assembly Speaker Toni G. Atkins for their bold leadership and commitment to ensure immigrants in California are fully integrated to the fabric of the nation’s most diverse state. While we have made progress, especially during the past few years, thousands of immigrant families in the Golden State still lack basic health care coverage, our justice system castigates immigrants twice even for minor wrongdoings, and the systems to broadly integrate immigrants in large and small cities are pretty much absent. This package seeks to make a dent on these challenges and help every California family, regardless of immigration status, strive forward to success.”

Kevin Baker, Legislative Director, ACLU California Center for Advocacy and Policy: “We commend California’s Legislative leadership for taking on a comprehensive agenda to protect immigrants’ rights in California, and we look forward to working with them on these issues. Immigrants contribute immeasurably to the economic success of

California, despite facing serious challenges in many areas of daily life covered by this legislative package, from consumer fraud to discrimination, access to health care, and efforts to earn their citizenship. In particular, The ACLU of California is proud to be sponsoring AB 1352 (Eggman), which will keep California families together, support rehabilitation and promote equal treatment by ensuring that immigrants are not penalized by participating in deferred entry of judgment programs.”

Angie Junck, Supervising Attorney, Immigrants Legal Resource Center:

“California is the most immigrant-rich state in America, and in the face of Congressional gridlock, we must step up and continue our state’s legacy as a leader in responsive and effective immigration policy reform. The legislation introduced today is a testament to California’s commitment to protecting the rights of immigrants, including the most marginalized and vulnerable among them. Our communities and our families are better off when all residents have the opportunity to participate fully in society—and that starts with keeping immigrant families together and eliminating policies that target and criminalize the immigrant community. These bills will help ensure that immigrants are not forced to live as second class citizens, and the immigrants’ rights community is dedicated to working alongside California’s legislators to see these measure successfully passed.”

Reshma Shamasunder, Executive Director, California Immigrant Policy Center:

“Undocumented immigrants are part of California’s heart and soul. Their leadership, along with the leadership of our legislators and Governor, is pushing California forward and transforming the national conversation on this vital issue. This year, with this bill package and other key measures on the horizon, promises to mark another crucial milestone on the road to equity and inclusion.” –

Priya Murthy, Policy and Organizing Program Director of Service, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN): “California continues to lead the way nationwide in ensuring immigrant integration in our state. We applaud the proactive efforts of legislative leadership and the Asian Pacific & Islander and Latino Caucuses in protecting the rights of immigrants, promoting their social and economic mobility, and embracing our state’s diverse immigrant community.”

Delia de la Vara, National Council of La Raza Vice President, California: “NCLR California is excited to support the Immigrants Shape California Legislative Package introduced by Senate Pro Tem de Leon and Speaker Atkins. This package illustrates an unassailable truth: that immigrants are part of our economic and social engine, and that their fair treatment will only strengthen their contributions to California’s progress. Congress should take note; this is yet one more example of how California is leading the way.”

Sarah de Guia, Executive Director, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN):

“California’s strength is rooted in its rich diversity of cultures and communities. Improving the well-being of the state means ensuring equitable opportunities for all, regardless of immigration status. Today, we continue towards making California a more just and healthy place to live for everyone in our communities.”