

California Senate Bill Proposal

The California Right to Work and Dignity Act

Problem:

Undocumented Californians who have no criminal history and pay taxes using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) are barred from legal employment.

This exclusion:

- Forces skilled, tax-paying individuals into vulnerable undocumented labor.
- Reduces economic productivity in California.
- Exposes workers to wage theft, unsafe conditions, and exploitation.

Proposed Solution:

Establish a California state-issued employment authorization card for qualifying undocumented residents, modeled after the successful Assembly Bill 60 (AB 60) driver's license framework.

Eligibility Criteria:

- No criminal convictions.
- Proof of California residency for at least one year.
- Consistent tax filings with a valid ITIN for at least two years.
- Successful completion of a basic employment rights test.

Administration:

California Department of Employment Services, in partnership with the Employment Development Department (EDD).

Anticipated Benefits:

- Enhances labor market transparency and accountability.
- Reduces exploitation and improves public health and safety.
- Increases state tax revenues and stabilizes the workforce.
- Empowers immigrant communities and fosters safer communities.

Privacy Protection:

- Strong confidentiality measures to protect applicant information.
- Strict prohibition against sharing data with federal immigration enforcement without due judicial process.

Implementation and Oversight:

- Managed by the California Department of Employment Services with EDD support.
- Advisory board including immigrant advocacy groups, labor unions, economic experts, and community representatives.

Precedent:

Assembly Bill 60 (Driver's Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants)

Action Required:

Your support and sponsorship are essential to promoting fairness, dignity, and economic vitality in California.

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