

COMMUNITY SAFETY

[AB 118](#) (Kamlager) **CRISIS Act**

Status: Assembly Appropriations - Suspense File

This bill would: The Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems (CRISES) Act pilot program will scale up and support community-based responses to local emergencies, as alternatives to police.

Talking Points

- Law enforcement officers continue to respond to emergencies that would be better addressed by community organizations with trained peer support experts, mental health providers, or crisis counselors.
- Many emergency situations do not require an armed response from law enforcement.

Resources

- AB 118 [Fact Sheet](#)
- Template [Letter of Support](#)

[AB 937](#) (Carrillo) **VISION Act**

Status: Assembly Appropriations - Suspense File

This bill would: The VISION Act will protect community members from being transferred to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody upon being found eligible for release from a local jail or state prison, and reunite immigrant families and communities.

Talking Points

- Prisons, jails, & ICE detention centers are notoriously toxic and violent. Voluntarily transferring people from jail/prison to ICE worsens their health by lengthening their time behind bars. See [Stop ICE Transfers: Promoting Health, Unifying Families, and Healing Communities](#)
- Immigrant Californians who have served out their sentences or otherwise have been deemed eligible for release should not face a second punishment. We should not funnel them into the federal immigration detention and deportation system.
- We've recognized that our justice system disproportionately harms Black, Latino, Indigenous, and AAPI communities. In recent years, the Legislature and California voters have demonstrated a commitment and a willingness to reform our criminal justice system and end mass incarceration. However, for immigrants who have earned release, this just means they are going to be handed over to ICE and face permanent separation from their families and communities.
- When local law enforcement and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation assist with transfers of these individuals to ICE, they ignore their record of rehabilitation, stable re-entry plan, and their network of community and family support.

Resources

- AB 937 Factsheet: [English](#) | [Español](#)
- [Infographic](#) on ICE Transfers (includes cost estimates) by Alliance of Boys and Men of Color
- [Graphic Explaining ICE transfers](#) by Chanthon Bun, Yuri Kochiyama Fellow, Asian Law Caucus

EQUITABLE GOVERNANCE

[AB 46](#) (Rivas) **CA Youth Empowerment Act**

Status: Assembly Appropriations

This bill would: The California Youth Empowerment Act would establish the California Youth Empowerment Commission in state government consisting of 25 voting commissioners ages 14 to 25, which will play advisory roles to the state government.

Talking Points

- AB 46 will address the lack of youth representation in state policy making by establishing the California Youth Empowerment Commission.
- At least half of them will have experienced youth homelessness, foster care, juvenile incarceration, or have special needs—thus ensuring representation from traditionally underserved youth.
- As our state seeks to reinvest in developing our future leaders, it is imperative that youth have a seat at the table. Our democracy will be better served if young Californians are given an opportunity to contribute their perspectives in policy decisions that will have far-reaching ramifications for the future of our state.

Resources

- AB 46 [Fact Sheet](#)

[SB 17](#) (Pan) **Office of Racial Equity**

Status: Senate Appropriations

This bill would: Establish an Office of Racial Equity within the state government to address structural racism and advance racial equity in all policies and practices of state departments and agencies.

Talking Points

- Accountability matters. The Office of Racial Equity would ensure that our elected leaders and government systems are accountable to addressing both the needs of young people and systemic racism at all levels of governance.

Resources

- SB 17 [Fact Sheet](#)

HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

[SB 464](#) (Hurtado) **Food4All**

Status: Senate Appropriations

This bill would: Modernize the California Food Assistance Program to provide state-funded nutrition assistance to households with low-income that are excluded from CalFresh solely due to their immigration status.

Talking Points

- Food is our most basic human need, but millions in California struggle to regularly afford it.
- CalFresh is our most powerful anti-hunger program, but many immigrants are unjustly excluded. This exclusion hurts all of us and worsens racial inequality.
- Undocumented immigrant are among the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether they lost work or have been supporting our economy as an essential worker, undocumented Californians and their families are locked out of most forms of COVID relief.
- We need to strengthen our nutrition safety net by making it work for ALL Californians, no matter where they were born—both during the pandemic and beyond.
- When every Californian can afford the food they need, we become a healthier, more resilient state.

Resources

- SB 464 Fact Sheet: [English](#) | [Español](#)
- Use this [easy email tool](#) to ask Senators Portantino and Atkins to pass SB 464!
- Campaign website: bit.ly/f4a2021

[AB 221](#) (Santiago) **Emergency Food Assistance**

Status: Assembly Appropriations

This bill would: 1) provide one-time Emergency Food Benefits for low-income people adversely affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic and who are excluded from federal aid, regardless of legal status; and 2) require the Department of Social Services (CDSS) to provide recommendations for a permanent food assistance program. There is a \$200M companion budget ask led by Santiago on the Assembly side.

Talking Points

- Millions of families continue to need emergency food assistance, including our undocumented communities who are excluded from CalFresh and other social safety nets, and who are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
- How would having grocery cards help you meet your food needs?
- If meeting with a member of the [Latino Caucus](#), thank them for making the bill a top priority on their agenda.

Resources

- AB 221 [Fact Sheet](#)

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

[AB 4](#) & [SB 56](#) (Arambula & Durazo) **Health4All**

Status: Assembly Appropriations; Senate Appropriations

These bills would: **AB4** - Expand full scope Medi-Cal services to all ages regardless of immigration status by 2026; **SB 56** - Extend full Medi-Cal coverage to all seniors, including undocumented seniors effective July 1st, 2022; Senate leadership committed to make it effective July, 1st, 2021.

Talking Points

- AB 4 and SB 56 would provide comprehensive health coverage and preventative care for low-income undocumented immigrants, particularly seniors who did not have access to preventative healthcare and thus are more vulnerable, including during the pandemic.
- Undocumented Californians are facing a healthcare crisis. In recent years, the federal government has carried out harmful attacks on immigrant communities by separating families, increasing deportations, and undermining our healthcare system and safety net. This has resulted in serious trauma that is affecting the physical and mental well-being of many Californians. Our state should take action now to protect the health of all low-income Californians, regardless of birthplace. Undocumented adults have contributed to our economy and social fabric for decades; they are 10% of our workforce and are parents to 1 in 6 children in California.

Resources

- AB 4 Fact Sheet: [English](#) | [Español](#)
- SB 56 Fact Sheet: [English](#) | [Español](#)

[SB 65](#) (Skinner) - **Reimagining Maternal Health**

Status: Senate rules

This bill would: California's Omnibus bill includes seven strategies to close the racial and socioeconomic maternal health disparities gap in California

Talking Points

- Although California has reduced the overall number of maternal deaths, disparities still remain. Black and Indigenous pregnant people continue to die and or be seriously injured at rates far above California's average. All pregnant people deserve the right to have a safe and joyous pregnancy and postpartum period.
- SB 65, California's Omnibus bill, re-imagines maternal health by redefining success. Regardless of how much money you make, your race, your education, or your job, you should be able to have a child and raise your family with dignity.
- There are over 1000 births in California each day, every day of the year. An investment to ensure that all pregnant people, and babies have a healthy start is an investment in California's future.

Resources

- [SB 65 Fact Sheet](#)

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

[AB 123](#) (Gonzalez) + Budget Ask Paid Family Leave

Status: Assembly appropriations

This bill would: Increase the weekly paid family leave benefit to equal to 90% of the employee's wage.

Talking Points

- **Why it's important to provide adequate wage replacement for state disability insurance and paid family leave**
 - When people need to take time off work for parental leave, family caregiving responsibilities, or personal health reasons, their *expenses go up, not down*.
 - Living paycheck to paycheck is a reality for many Californians already, so taking time off work without full pay simply isn't possible.
 - Many people aren't able to use their leave benefits to take time off to recover from their own illness, to bond with a new baby or to care for a sick family member because the current wage replacement rate is so low.
 - If the California legislature doesn't take action this year, the wage replacement rate for state disability insurance and paid family leave will go down at the end of 2021. We can't let that happen!

Resources

- [AB 123 + Budget Ask](#) Talking Points

[AB 1041](#) (Wicks) Chosen Family Paid Leave

Status: Assembly appropriations

This bill would: Expand family caregiving leave and paid sick leave protections to a "designated person" of the employee's choosing

Talking Points

- The way that our sick leave and family leave laws are currently written, they disproportionately leave out caregivers in the LGBTQI community, immigrant communities, older people, and people living in multigenerational households, who are more likely to rely on people outside of the narrow definition of family member currently included in our sick leave and family leave laws.
- California law should recognize the diversity of California's families by allowing workers to take time off to care for a "designated person" of the employee's choosing.
- This law does not increase in any way the benefits an employer must provide their employee. All it does is permit an employee to use their *existing* family caregiving leave and paid sick days to care for those who they consider family.
- California is filled with diverse, chosen, and multigenerational families. They shouldn't be treated as second class and denied critical workplace rights.

Resources

- [AB 1041 Fact Sheet & Talking Points](#)

ACCESSIBLE NEIGHBORHOODS

[AB 71](#) (Rivas) **Bring California Home Act**

Status: Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee

This bill would: Bring \$2.4 billion in ongoing funding to address homelessness through a corporate tax.

Talking Points

- California is home to the largest unhoused population in the nation. The problem only worsened during the pandemic, while wealth gaps in our state have been skyrocketing.
- By passing AB 71, California can invest in housing strategies that have proven effective to address homelessness, while closing a significant corporate tax loophole!
- This bill provides an ongoing state funding source for affordable housing by eliminating the state mortgage interest deduction on vacation homes. This deduction results in a revenue loss to the state of approximately \$300 million annually. The funds saved as a result of eliminating the deduction would then increase the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program by \$300 million per year. Californians could continue to claim a mortgage interest deduction for a vacation home on their federal taxes.

Resources

- [AB 71 Fact Sheet](#)

[SB 624](#) (Hueso) **Environmental Equity & Outdoor Access Act**

Status: Senate Environmental Quality

This bill would: Will ensure all Californians can benefit from, and have meaningful access to, the state's rich cultural and natural resources. This includes promoting inclusivity, representation and competency among staff under the Natural Resources Agency.

Talking Points

- Accessing outdoor resources plays a vital part in promoting our physical and mental health, especially as we see during the pandemic. Communities of color, immigrants, LGBTQ+ communities and women often do not feel equally welcomed and safe when accessing parks and green spaces. We can change that now by passing SB 624!

Resources

- [SB 624 Fact Sheet](#)