



CENTRAL AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER
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PRESS RELEASE

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San Francisco Board of Supervisors Member, Hillary Ronen, Joins Immigrant Community and Advocates in Calling on the U.S. Congress to Guarantee Protection of Immigrants in Next Federal Relief Packet for COVID-19 Health Crisis

San Francisco, Tuesday April 21, 2020 – Today San Francisco Supervisor Hillary Ronen, introduced a Board Resolution calling on the U.S. Congress to ensure protections for all without exclusion of the nation’s immigrant population in the next Federal Relief Bill, in response to the COVID-19 global health pandemic.

“If there is one lesson we have learned from this pandemic, it is that our personal well-being is inextricably linked to the well-being of our neighbors,” said Supervisor Hillary Ronen. *“Our best chance at overcoming this crisis is by developing local, state, and federal responses that take the health of all of our residents into account -- especially our immigrant communities who have been among the most disparately impacted throughout this public health emergency.”*

California has the largest population of immigrants in the nation, critical to fueling our state’s economic engine. Over 300,000 hard working individuals with Temporary Protected Status (TPS), 700,000+ Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) beneficiaries, their families and the estimated 500,000 U.S. born children with parents in both programs, as well as the 11 Million hardworking undocumented immigrants nationwide, were excluded from the recent federal bipartisan CARES Act which provides relief to the American economy and population from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We’ve always been contributing to the growth of this nation, this is also true at this moment, but we ask that we also be recognized and granted protection, we need the limbo we’ve endured to end, and a permanent solution now” Julio Mejia, Small business owner and TPS beneficiary.

According to the Center for American Progress, exclusion of TPS beneficiaries alone from the U.S. economy will cost taxpayers over \$3 billion dollars. They also estimate that exclusion of these individuals from the U.S. workforce will result in over \$45 billion in lost GDP over a decade and \$6.9 billion in lost Social Security and Medicare contributions. This exclusion of immigrants is happening at a moment in U.S. history when they are risking their lives working in critical sectors—as farmworkers, supermarket clerks,

health workers, construction sector workers, janitors, truckers, and others—keeping U.S. households safe, and the economy going.

“This Resolution from the City of San Francisco is a plea to our federal representatives to advance a comprehensive and humane response to the COVID-19 health pandemic. So many of us can Shelter in Place, have food at the table, and our basic needs met, in great part thanks to the millions of immigrants and essential workers risking their lives. It’s time to also bend the curve on the nation’s systemic racism, xenophobia, exploitation, and exclusion of migrants,” said Lariza Dugan-Cuadra, Executive Director of the Central American Resource Center – CARECEN SF.

The SF Board Resolution calls on the U.S. Congress to ensure:

1. Protection for TPS, DACA beneficiaries, and the greater undocumented immigrant population in the form of work authorizations and a pathway to permanent residency
2. Access to public health resources for immigrant communities in response to the current COVID-19 global health pandemic
3. Zero funding for immigrant detention and sweeping ICE enforcement
4. Release of all immigrants held by ICE in U.S. detention centers at risk of contracting COVID-19
5. Immediate halt to deportations
6. Close coordination between San Francisco government and state government

Today, The Central American Resource Center – CARECEN of Northern California and allies across the State, sent a letter to every California U.S. Congressional Member echoing these demands, with signatures from more than 100 individuals and community based organizations in southern, central and northern California.

“This administration wants to make us invisible, even after twenty years in the frontlines. Our work and our contributions cannot be made invisible”. Patricia Valle, TPS beneficiary

CARECEN SF empowers and responds to the needs, rights and aspirations of Latino, immigrant, and under-resourced families in the San Francisco Bay Area — building leadership to pursue self-determination and justice. Rooted in its cultural strengths and inspired by the Central American justice struggles, CARECEN SF envisions our diverse immigrant community as thriving; where families prosper, build effective community institutions, and participate confidently in civic life.

CARECEN SF offers legal consultations to the Bay Area’s immigrant community Monday–Friday, 9 am–noon. Our offices are located at 3101 Mission Street, Suite 101 in San Francisco.

Learn more about our history and work at www.carecensf.org.

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