

May 25, 2020

Honorable Toni Atkins
President, Pro Tem of the California Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker of the California Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear President Pro Tempore Atkins and Speaker Rendon:

We are a coalition of dozens of labor, community organizing, faith-based, policy, philanthropic, and academic leaders. As California faces an ongoing public health crisis and a steep road to economic recovery, we ask for your continued leadership in coming up with solutions to protect all Californians from devastating and disproportionate budget cuts. We believe this crisis has exacerbated many of the social and economic ills that made us so vulnerable, including:

- Racial disparities
- Under-resourced health and economic safety nets
- Economic vulnerability of low-income communities
- Exclusion of immigrant communities
- Imbalance of power for workers

California often leads the nation. Today, we have the opportunity to lead again, this time with the basic public health principle that should have long been our standard for all economic and social policy: we care for ourselves when we care for others. We believe that California cannot return to a dangerous and broken “normal.” Instead, we call on you as leaders of California to join us as we fight for bold measures to create a more just, resilient, and healthy California and a recovery that creates prosperity and opportunity for all.

This social and economic transformation must start immediately and cannot wait. The starting points include the following steps in 2020:

1. Support and endorse Schools and Communities First
2. Oppose trigger cuts and any cut that increases economic vulnerability or aggravates structural racism
3. Begin to rebalance the economy through a combination of new corporate/windfall taxes and stepped up contributions from those who have benefited the most from California's economy
4. Ensure racial equity and inclusion and build greater economic resilience for all in California:

- Allocate targeted resources to low-income communities of color - those hardest hit - now and throughout the recovery process to accelerate their protection, health, economic recovery and democratic participation
 - Support immediate investments in healthcare and economic safety nets for all Californians, regardless of immigration status
 - Protect tenants, homeowners and small landlords from losing their homes
 - Invest in the health and safety of ALL working Californians
5. Empower and protect all workers, including through mechanisms that include workers in setting and enforcing occupational safety, health, and economic standards

We applaud and will work with you on several solutions that you have already proposed, including:

- Pressing our federal representatives to pass the much-needed HEROES Act
- Tapping into the reserves and rainy-day funds that we have wisely shored up against this deluge
- Borrowing against future revenues and special funds to prioritize supporting Californians' immediate needs

Most importantly, we need your courageous leadership and will work with you to create a fairer and more equitable tax system to raise critically needed revenue, mitigate inequality, and build a balanced economy.

We know from your long track records of support for all communities in California and your leadership record that you share our values of justice and inclusion. We look forward to working with you to build a stronger and more resilient California that lives up to our shared aspirations of care and inclusion and our record of leadership in the country.

Sincerely,



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Anthony Wright
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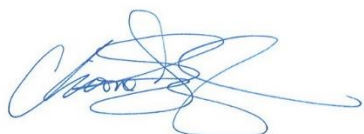
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