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The Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust



April 7, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom

**RE: Support for California's Nonprofits During the COVID-19 Crisis**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California (JPAC) is the largest single-state coalition of Jewish nonprofit organizations in the nation. Our members include Jewish Family Service agencies, Jewish Federations and Community Relations Councils, and many other non-profit organizations that advocate for and directly serve the California Jewish community and the people of California at large. Our member organizations collectively employ approximately 5,000 staff and serve over 1,000,000 people each year. JPAC member organizations provide critical aid, assistance, and legal services to our state's most vulnerable, including individuals detained at the border, forced into homelessness, or denied essential healthcare. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, many of our member organizations have established emergency funds to further be of assistance to their clients and the communities they serve.

JPAC joins with the California Association of Nonprofits and our partners in the State Legislature to reiterate our request to deploy SB 89 funds to sustain the essential services provided by the nonprofit community in this critical time, and implement specific policy goals that ensure the nonprofit community can continue their critical work. JPAC endorses and supports all of the requests laid out in the [CalNonprofits letter](#) dated March 24, 2020. Likewise, we heartily support the [letter](#) from Assemblymember Luz Rivas and signed by members of the California Legislature dated March 26, 2020, which asserts that "We...are here to engage meaningfully in developing strategies to assist individuals and organizations experiencing hardship caused by this crisis."

**We write to you today to request that you allocate emergency funds to frontline nonprofit service providers in California to ensure that our State's vulnerable populations continue to receive the basic services they rely on to survive.** Specifically, JPAC requests that the following policies be implemented related to COVID-19 and the State's ability to ensure the protection and safety of its' residents:

**1. Protections for nonprofits and nonprofit social service agencies:**

- New and immediate emergency funds should be made available to enable non-profit providers, such as our Jewish Family Service agencies and others, to continue to provide and expand the range of essential services necessary to protect public health and vulnerable populations (i.e. meals/groceries, healthcare, case management, and other essential services for seniors, low-income

households, homeless individuals, refugees, etc.)

- Preserve business income interruption insurance coverage for nonprofits that purchased such coverage in order to prevent insurance companies from denying nonprofits business interruption coverage due to COVID-19.

## **2. Anti-Poverty Efforts and Social Safety Net Preservation**

- Broaden healthcare access and coverage to all low-income California residents, including refugees and undocumented immigrants, impacted by COVID-19.
- Allocate funding to Community Based Organizations that serve at-risk populations, including undocumented immigrants, to provide cash benefits for groceries, rent/mortgage assistance, emergency home and repairs, medications, and other health needs and tools.
- Expand access to State Disability Insurance (SDI), Paid Family Leave (PFL), and Unemployment Insurance (UI) by waiving or easing medical certification requirements; providing adequate emergency funding to ensure the solvency of the SDI and UI Funds, and adequate administration of California's wage replacement programs; expanding California leave laws to ensure coverage for all workers, including undocumented, not covered by the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act; and increasing duration and wage replacement rates for the UI, SDI, and PFL programs.
- Expand eligibility for the CA Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC), to allow any CA resident who files taxes and meets the income requirements, including ITIN holders, to qualify, regardless of immigration status. The EITC is one of the most effective tools to help lift and keep individuals and families out of poverty -- its broader implementation is needed now more than ever.
- Create and fully fund a "Disaster Relief Fund" within the Employment Development Department (EDD) to provide cash assistance for workers not eligible for benefits administered by EDD who have been unable to continue working due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The EDD should immediately increase its staffing to administer this program and expedite processing.

## **3. Hate Crimes and Hate Rhetoric Prevention**

- JPAC requests your support of a budget request to continue funding the California Nonprofit Security Grant to protect nonprofits at risk of a terrorist attack.
- An alarming consequence of the COVID-19 crisis is the harassment and scapegoating of both Asian Americans and Jews that has arisen over the last few months. According to the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council's [online incident reporting tool](#), as of March 26th, 2020, there have been over 650 reports of xenophobic and racist behavior, and numerous physically violent attacks against members of the Asian American community. Additionally, extremists

have circulated [conspiracy theories accusing Jews](#) of spreading or profiting from the virus.

In response to these coronavirus-related incidents, 72 Jewish organizations (including JPAC members American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League, JCRC of San Francisco, the Jewish Federation & Family Services of Orange County, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles) signed [a letter expressing our support](#) for the Chinese and Chinese-American communities. We therefore request your leadership and action to denounce these intolerable acts by standing with Asian and Jewish communities to condemn the hateful rhetoric and violence targeting these groups.

Thank you for your leadership in this crisis and for your consideration of our requests and recommendations. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact our legislative advocate Cliff Berg at [cberg@govadv.com](mailto:cberg@govadv.com).

Respectfully,

Three handwritten signatures in blue ink are arranged horizontally. From left to right: Lynn Bunim, Cliff Berg, and Julie Zeisler.

Lynn Bunim  
Board Chair

Cliff Berg  
Legislative Advocate

Julie Zeisler  
Executive Director