



# The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles

2533 W. Third Street, Ste 101, Los Angeles, CA 90057 ♦ Tel 213-353-1333 ♦ Fax 213-353-1344 ♦ www.chirla.org

October 5, 2006

## LEGISLATIVE ANNUAL REVIEW

The 2006 State Legislative year has ended and this year Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has vetoed several proposed bills that would have improved the lives of immigrants. However, as a result of the marvelous efforts made by immigrants and advocates the Governor signed into law several bills, including AB 2060 (De La Torre) and SB 1569 (Kuehl) that will enhance the conditions of immigrants in California.

California is home to the largest immigrant population in the nation. Hence, our state legislators and our Governor must make a greater effort to ensure that our state has the necessary mechanisms and resources that can aid immigrants as they integrate into the fabric of California. By investing in immigrant communities, California can continue to position itself as one of the fifth largest economies in the world while reaping the benefits of increased economic productivity and increased tax revenues produced by immigrant communities.

This legislative year was bittersweet. AB 2060 (De La Torre) and SB 1569 (Kuehl) sponsored by the California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative (CIWC) – a partnership of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California (APALC), the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), the National Immigration Law Center (NILC), and Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN) – were signed into law by the Governor. However, AB 2536 (Montañez), the “ Household Worker Bill” was vetoed by the Governor despite the tremendous efforts of the Household Worker Coalition, a collaboration of CHIRLA, Mujeres Unidas Y Activas (Oakland, San Francisco), the Women’s Collective of La Raza Centro Legal (San Francisco), and the Pilipino Worker Center (PWC). We would like to thank all of our colleagues for working extensively with us on those bills.

Below is a summary of bills relevant to immigrants that were vetoed or signed by Governor Schwarzenegger. While we are disappointed that many essential bills were vetoed, we are committed to continued advocacy for legislation that will improve the lives of immigrants and refugees in California.

If you have any questions please contact CHIRLA’s State Policy Advocate, Joseph Villela, at 213.353.1782 or via e-mail at [jvillela@chirla.org](mailto:jvillela@chirla.org).



# The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles

2533 W. Third Street, Ste 101, Los Angeles, CA 90057 ♦ Tel 213-353-1333 ♦ Fax 213-353-1344 ♦ www.chirla.org

## BILLS SIGNED

### HEALTH

**SB 1569 (Kuehl) "Access to public benefits for human trafficking victims"- CIWC Sponsored Bill.** Ensures that human trafficking victims in California have access to state and local services. By providing access to critical state services, immigrant survivors of trafficking, domestic violence and other serious crimes will be better able to cooperate with law enforcement to help prosecute their perpetrators.

**SB 1534 (Ortiz) "Public Benefits."** Affirms the ability of counties, cities, and hospital districts, at their own discretion, to provide health care and other services to all of their residents.

**SB 437 (Escutia) "Health Care Coverage."** Streamlines and simplifies enrollment of children currently in WIC programs into Medi-Cal and Healthy Families.

### CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

**AB 2060 (De La Torre) "New Californians Act"- CIWC Sponsored Bill.** Makes comprehensive citizenship services available to California's immigrant communities. AB 2060 will make the state Naturalization Services Program (NSP) a permanent program. The bill will also restructure the current program by encouraging regional coordination among the grantees.

### IMMIGRANT AND WORKER'S RIGHTS

**AB 1835 (Lieber) "Minimum Wage."** Increases the minimum wage to \$7.50 per hour, effective on and after January 1, 2007, and to \$8.00 per hour, effective on and after January 1, 2008.

## BILLS VETOED

### HEALTH

**SB 840 (Kuehl) "Single Payer Health Care Coverage."** It would have ensured access to health coverage for all Californians through a state-sponsored single-payer plan.

### IMMIGRANT AND WORKER'S RIGHTS

**AB 2536 (Montañez) "Employment: Minimum wage and overtime compensation" - Household Worker Coalition Sponsored bill.** This bill would have extended overtime provisions to household workers. This bill would also allow household workers to recover unlawfully withheld wages or unpaid overtime wages and to recover liquidated damages equal to the wages withheld plus interest.

**SB 1162 (Cedillo) "Drivers License."** This bill would have allowed undocumented immigrants to obtain driver's licenses, while implementing the federal Real ID Act, whose main goal was to make state driver's licenses a badge of immigration status. The driver's licenses that would be given to undocumented immigrants would be marked differently than those given to citizens. In CHIRLA's analysis, this bill did not contain adequate protections against discrimination and racial profiling.

### LANGUAGE ACCESS

**AB 2302 (Assembly Judiciary Committee) "Evidence Court Interpreters."** This bill would have ensured that civil courts provide court interpreters when needed for those parties in family, domestic violence, and other civil matters who require assistance with English.



# The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles

2533 W. Third Street, Ste 101, Los Angeles, CA 90057 ♦ Tel 213-353-1333 ♦ Fax 213-353-1344 ♦ www.chirla.org

## BILLS SIGNED

### **SB 1468 (Alarcon) "Car Washes."**

Extends the sunset date established in the "Car Wash Worker Law," from January 1, 2007 to January 1, 2010. The key provisions of the car wash worker law include a registration requirement to help enforce health and safety laws and to prevent predatory car washes from staying in business, as well as the collection of a Registration Fee for the creation of a Car Worker Restitution Fund and the Car Wash Worker Fund. This fund was established to pay car wash workers found by the Labor Commissioner for Administration and Enforcement to have been unlawfully denied wages.

### **AB 630 (Chu) "Immigration Consultant Fraud."**

The intent of the bill is to protect consumers from fraudulent immigration consultants by authorizing the Secretary of State to issue a 'cease and desist' letter to immigration consultants for being in violation of the state bond requirement and requires a background check for those individuals interested in being immigration consultants. Furthermore, it would increase fine amounts and impose a misdemeanor charge against fraudulent immigration consultants.

## LANGUAGE ACCESS

### **AB 680 (Chan) "English Language Learners."**

When 15% or more of the students enrolled in a public school speak a single primary language other than English, all notices, reports, statements, or records sent to the parents or guardian of those students shall, in addition to English, be written in their primary language. This bill, if enacted, would require the State Department of Education to monitor adherence to that requirement as part of its regular monitoring and review of public schools districts.

## BILLS VETOED

### **SB 1311 (Soto) "Liability Waivers."**

Would have required the President of the State Bar of California to appoint a task force to study protections that can be enacted to prevent a settlement, waiver, or liability release that is not knowingly and intelligently made by an underrepresented tort victim because of miscommunication or misinterpretation of the terms of the settlement, waiver or liability where the negotiations were conducted in whole or in part in a language in which the victim was not proficient.

### **SB 1580 (Ducheny) "Pupil assessment: English language learners: achievement tests: high school exit examination."**

This bill would have allowed English Language Learner students to take standards-based achievement tests in their primary language, resulting in a more accurate assessment of their academic achievement.

## EDUCATION

### **SB 160 (Cedillo) "The California Dream Act."**

This bill would have required the Board of Governors for the California Community College and Board of Trustees for the California State University, and requested that the Board of Regents of the University of California system, allow students who meet in-state tuition requirements (California Section Code § 681130.5) to compete for current financial aid programs available and administered by these institutions, except Cal-grants and the Board of Governors Fee Waiver (BOGW).

### **SB 437 (Escutia) "Instructional Materials."**

This bill would have required that the State Board of Education adopt an Accelerated English program for English Learner students as part of the 2008 Reading/Language Arts/English Language Development Curriculum Frameworks and Criteria.



# The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles

2533 W. Third Street, Ste 101, Los Angeles, CA 90057 ♦ Tel 213-353-1333 ♦ Fax 213-353-1344 ♦ www.chirla.org

## BILLS SIGNED

### EDUCATION

**SB 361 (Scott) "Community College Funding."** Establishes a new funding mechanism to California Community Colleges (CCC). The immediate impact will be the reduction of educational fees per unit. Starting January 1, 2006 the cost per unit will be \$20.00 instead of \$26.00.

## BILLS VETOED

**SB 1575 (Dunn) "Curriculum: human rights: unconstitutional deportation."** Would have required junior and senior high school social science courses that cover human rights issues to also provide instruction on the inhumanity of the 1930s deportation program.