

February 15, 2021

Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Room 4140
Sacramento, CA 94249-0056

Re: AB 62 (Gray): Income taxes: credits: costs to comply with COVID-19 regulations
SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember,

On behalf of the Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce, we write to express our support for AB 62, which would provide small and essential businesses with an income tax credit for the costs of complying with the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards.

Businesses are currently experiencing economic hardships due to governmental restrictions placed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards come at a time of significant economic uncertainty for employees and employers alike. With levels of unemployment reaching records not seen since the Great Depression, and government-imposed economic shutdowns keeping businesses closed or significantly depressing revenue, many businesses are struggling to keep their doors open and their lights on. Layering new and unfeasible regulatory compliance costs on top of these existing challenges has the potential to set off a wave of permanent business closures and job losses. A study by the University of California Riverside showed that almost 50% of the small businesses in the Inland Empire reported a large negative effect from the COVID-19 pandemic.

To mitigate the financial impacts of the COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards on small and essential businesses, AB 62 provides a limited income tax credit dedicated to offsetting the costs of complying with these workplace standards. Every dollar allocated under AB 62 will go directly to combating the spread of COVID-19 and keeping employees and the public safe from this global pandemic.

Federal and state programs have dedicated billions of dollars to help employers stay in business, but too often this assistance is insufficient or inaccessible. These programs have suffered from too many complex application systems and unclear requirements and timelines. AB 62 avoids these issues by instead providing direct financial aid to businesses taking action to help all of us combat COVID19.

For these reasons stated above and others, we urge your support of AB 62.

Respectfully,





Joshua R. Bonner
President and CEO
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce

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