



September 8, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Request for Signature on SB 951 (Durazo) – Unemployment insurance: contribution rates: State Disability Insurance/Paid Family Leave**

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of All Home, we respectfully request your signature of SB 951 (Durazo), which would maintain the existing wage replacement rates for the State Disability Insurance (SDI) and Paid Family Leave (PFL) programs for an additional two years, and would increase both programs' wage replacement rates thereafter. All Home is a Bay Area organization that advances regional solutions to disrupt the cycles of poverty and homelessness and create more economic mobility for people with extremely low incomes.

The SDI and PFL programs provide a wage replacement for Californians who are unable to work due to their own sickness or injury or that of a family member, and for those who are unable to work due to pregnancy or the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child. Currently, individuals are entitled to a 60-70% wage replacement through these programs depending on their income, but these benefits are often not nearly enough for a family to live on. Only very low-income workers are eligible to receive the higher wage replacement rate of 70%, which for a worker who normally earns \$27,000 annually, for example, would only amount to about \$365 per week.

Most lower-income Californians cannot afford to take a 30-40% pay cut, meaning that benefit rates that are too low not only stand to exacerbate cycles of poverty but can force individuals to return to work too early or discourage them from utilizing these programs altogether. What's more, the current wage replacement rate is set to revert to the even lower 55% rate for all employees, regardless of income, on January 1, 2023, making SB 951 all the more necessary.

SB 951 will extend the current 60-70% wage replacement rates for another two years to avoid this reversion, and will increase rates to 70-90% beginning in 2025, providing Californians who are unable to work with payments they can more feasibly live on. This bill will help ensure that Californians (and especially those with the lowest wages, who are disproportionately women, Black, and Latinx) are able to take time off work to recover from serious illness and injury or to care for children or family members without putting their financial security in jeopardy. Every Californian should be able to recover from health conditions, care for family, or spend time with new children without sinking further into debt or struggling to pay rent or bills. SB 951 will not only keep people from returning to

work too soon, risking their health or sacrificing crucial bonding periods with children, but will make economic stability more achievable for families with the lowest financial means.

For these reasons, we strongly encourage you to sign SB 951 into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tomiquia Moss". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tomiquia Moss  
All Home  
Founder and CEO