



April 19, 2023

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Committee on Governance and Finance
State Capitol, Room 407
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 565 (Caballero) – Free and simplified tax filing through CalFile – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Caballero:

I'm writing to express strong support of your bill, SB 565 which would allow the Franchise Tax Board to create a program for free and simplified tax filing for qualifying taxpayers, including utilizing the pre-population of taxpayer data to streamline the filing process. By making it easier for Californians to file their taxes, and to claim the tax credits they have earned, SB 565 would help increase economic security among the lowest-income Californians and maximize the impact of the state's existing tax credit programs.

All Home is a Bay Area organization focused on addressing the cycle of homelessness and poverty and creating more housing stability and economic mobility for Californians with the lowest incomes. In the Bay Area, over 1 million people live with extremely low incomes – an average of \$17,000 each year – and are one financial crisis away from experiencing homelessness. Many are eligible for tax credits they've earned that would increase economic and housing security, but they face persistent barriers to filing.

The CalEITC – along with the related Young Child Tax Credit and Foster Youth Tax Credit – is one of the most important anti-poverty tools that our state has to offer to working families. Yet many who have the hardest time getting tax credits are those who would benefit from them the most. This includes thousands of people who are already connected to government agencies through other benefits. Nearly half a million SNAP recipients who are eligible for CalEITC don't receive it.

The state's safety net is essential to prevent poverty, but barriers in access mean that too many are left out. SB 565 will dramatically simplify tax filing, especially for these low-income Californians, by pre-populating data the FTB already has access to, and providing a free, online tool for taxpayers.

In order to live up to their promise, these critical tax credits must be truly accessible to all Californians who are eligible. SB 565 is a significant and critical step toward that goal. For these reasons, All Home supports this bill and thanks you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

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

Tomiquia Moss
Founder and CEO
All Home