



Catholic Charities

MARIN ♦ SAN FRANCISCO ♦ SAN MATEO

990 Eddy Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
**CatholicCharitiesSF.org**

September 9, 2024

Governor Gavin Newsom  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for AB 2432, AB 3160, SB 37, SB 85, SB 227, and SB 1089 to help California's vulnerable populations

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of Catholic Charities San Francisco, I am writing to express my strong support for California Assembly Bill 2432, Assembly Bill 3160, Senate Bill 37, Senate Bill 85, Senate Bill 227, and Senate Bill 1089. These critical pieces of legislation will have a profound and lasting impact on the most vulnerable populations in California, including many of the 70,000 individuals, families, children and youth, aging adults and adults with disabilities served by Catholic Charities annually in San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo Counties.

- AB 2432 – California Victims of Crime Act importantly establishes the California Crime Victims Fund in the State Treasury to protect the state's vital domestic violence programs that will be impacted by federal funding cuts to the VOCA (Victims of Crime Act). State funding for this Act will be provided by certain fines imposed by a court on corporations convicted of a white-collar crime, and ensure that people experiencing domestic violence continue to receive the support they desperately need.
- AB 3160 - Accessible Affordable Housing Act. This bill will mandate the construction of affordable and accessible housing units for low-income and disabled residents. Far too many individuals in our state struggle to find housing that meets their unique needs and budgets. AB 3160 will help address this crucial gap, empowering those most in need to live with dignity and independence.
- SB 37 - Disability Access Education and Outreach Act. Improving disability access awareness and education is essential for building a more inclusive California. SB 37 will provide funding for critical outreach and training programs, ensuring businesses, organizations, and the public understand their obligations and the rights of disabled individuals. This investment will pay dividends by reducing barriers and discrimination.
- SB 85 - Supplemental Security Income and State Supplementary Payment Increase Act. Raising the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and State Supplementary Payment (SSP) levels is a necessary step to provide adequate financial support for our state's impoverished and disabled residents. Current payment levels lag woefully behind the true cost of living, leaving many without the resources to meet their basic needs. SB 85 will make a meaningful difference in the lives of some of our most vulnerable community members.
- SB 227 - Medi-Cal Eligibility Modernization Act. Expanding Medi-Cal eligibility is a critical strategy to improve healthcare access for low-income Californians, including those with disabilities. By streamlining enrollment and removing arbitrary restrictions, this bill will help ensure all who need it can receive essential medical services and support.
- SB 1089 - Disability Access Litigation Reform Act. Addressing the abuse of disability access lawsuits is a complex challenge, but SB 1089 strikes the right balance. It will protect the rights of disabled individuals to seek recourse, while also curbing predatory litigation practices that harm small businesses and communities.

Collectively, these bills represent a significant step forward in supporting the needs of the most vulnerable Californians and will create more affordable and accessible housing, improve public awareness and compliance, increase financial assistance, expand healthcare access, and reform the disability litigation system. The positive impact on our communities cannot be overstated, as impacted residents will have greater opportunities to live independently, access essential services, and participate fully in community life. And our state as a whole will become more inclusive, equitable, and just.

I urge you to sign these important bills into law to make a real and lasting difference in the lives of so many of our most vulnerable neighbors. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ellen Hammerle  
Chief Executive Officer

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