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990 Eddy Street
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The Honorable Senator Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

August 7, 2025

Re: Support for SB 19, AB 55, AB 397, AB 1098, and SB 271 to protect California's families and children

Dear Senator Caballero,

On behalf of Catholic Charities San Francisco, I am writing to express my strong support for California Assembly Bill 55, Assembly Bill 397, Assembly Bill 1098, Senate Bill 19, and Senate Bill 271. These critical pieces of legislation will have a significant impact on the health and safety of California's families and children, including many of the 70,000 individuals, families, children, and youth served by Catholic Charities annually in San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo Counties.

- SB 19 would ensure law enforcement can effectively prosecute individuals who threaten schools, places of worship, and their attendees so these vital community centers can continue to perform their vital community roles. This would address a critical gap in protecting these institutions, as data show that fewer than 1 in 5 threats against these institutions is brought for prosecution.¹
- AB 397 expands access to the Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC) and CalEITC to help low-income families keep more money in their pockets to meet critical needs, such as food, housing, medication, and childcare. Research demonstrates that expanding tax credits focused on low-income communities helps to alleviate poverty while increasing their participation in the workforce.²
- AB 1098 and SB 271 would ensure that student parents can receive reasonable accommodations and childcare support while pursuing their educational goals, both of which have contributed to women remaining in the workforce.^{3,4} AB 55 eases red tape and regulatory requirements for licensed birth centers where midwives operate, which studies consistently show lead to fewer medical interventions during childbirth.⁵

Our reasons for supporting these bills go beyond making good policy but are driven by the day-to-day impacts these laws would have on our clients. In 2024, Catholic Charities served more than 30,000 individuals in our Youth and Child Development Services through myriad programs where safety is paramount. That same year, our work at the Bayview and Mission Access Points served 1,140 families with more than 2,200 children and connected them to housing, food, medical care, and rental subsidies through case management. At St.

¹ https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/fhcop0519_emb.pdf

² <https://budgetmodel.wharton.upenn.edu/issues/2019/5/15/the-expansion-of-the-eitc-across-states>

³ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352827319304112>

⁴ <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/child-care-crisis-keeping-women-workforce/>

⁵ <https://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378%2822%2900799-2/fulltext>


Joseph's Family Shelter, we serve 10 families for three to six months, while providing access to a safe living space, meals, and stability as we transition them from experiencing homelessness. For pregnant clients, we guide them through medical appointments and create tailored birth plans, some of which include the involvement of midwives.

The passage of these bills would ensure that vital institutions, families, children, students, and expectant mothers receive the safety, support, and accommodations that allow them to thrive in the local community.

Kind regards,



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Patrick Woody
Chair, Public Interest Board Committee
Catholic Charities

cc: The Honorable Susan Rubio, Author, California State Senate
The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes, Author, California State Senate
The Honorable Sabrina Cervantes, Principal Co-Author, California State Senate
The Honorable Rob Bonta, Author, California State Assembly
The Honorable Mike Fong, Author, California State Assembly
The Honorable Mark González, Author, California State Assembly
The Honorable Celeste Rodriguez, Author, California State Assembly
The Honorable Sharp-Collins, Author, California State Assembly
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:
The Honorable Kelly Seyarto, Vice Chair
The Honorable Christopher Cabaldon
The Honorable Megan Dahle
The Honorable Tim Grayson
The Honorable Laura Richardson
The Honorable Aisha Wahab

