



Center For Human Rights and Constitutional Law, Inc.
256 South Occidental Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90057
Telephone: (213) 637- 5814
Website: www.casalibrela.org

April 21, 2020

Council President Nury Martinez
Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Letter of Support - Motion for COVID-19 Financial Aid to Undocumented People in the City of Los Angeles

Dear Council President Martinez and Councilmember O'Farrell,

The Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law (CHRCL) is a non-profit, public interest legal foundation in Los Angeles dedicated to furthering and protecting the civil, constitutional, and human rights of immigrants, refugees, children, prisoners, and the poor.

Since its incorporation in 1980, under the leadership of a board of directors comprising civil rights attorneys, community advocates and religious leaders, CHRCL has represented millions of low-income immigrants in numerous nationwide class action cases preventing hundreds of thousands of deportations, strengthening the right to asylum and family reunification, and blocking implementation of xenophobic laws including California's Proposition 187. We are also the first and to date only organization in Los Angeles focusing on the release of detained immigrant children and their temporary housing at the Casa Libre home before they are reunited with family members living in the area afraid to seek their release directly with the government because their names and addresses will be turned over to ICE. Under new leadership, Casa Libre, in collaboration with the Salvadorian American Leadership and Education Fund (SALEF) and Clinica Monsenor Oscar Romero, has secured the release of detained unaccompanied immigrant minors and today provides them with housing and a range of services including legal representation, educational placement, social services, and family reunification.

It is with this background in mind that I am writing this letter of support for your Motion introduced on April 7, 2020 for the City of Los Angeles to address gaps in federal financial aid and resources for undocumented children and families. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act and Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) act both recently passed by Congress entirely fail to address the financial and social service needs of undocumented families.

The City of Los Angeles is vibrant city with many immigrant communities woven into its cultural and economic fabric. I support your efforts to ensure that undocumented families in Los Angeles are included in the city's effort to provide critical financial support and resources for survival and overall community health and well-being during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Peter Schey
President
Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law