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CHAIR: SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
INCARCERATED WOMEN

March 24, 2020

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

Dear Governor Newsom,

The COVID-19 pandemic is wreaking economic havoc in communities across the state. We are calling your attention to the plight of approximately 120,000 In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and Waiver Personal Care Services (WPCS) providers who are employed through these programs to care for their disabled spouse or child.

Under current law, these workers, 85 percent of whom are women and people of color, are not eligible for unemployment insurance. All other IHSS providers (i.e., those not serving a parent or spouse) are eligible for unemployment insurance.

Unemployment insurance is essential for people who has lost their jobs to afford food and shelter during economic downturns such as the one we are confronting. For workers who live paycheck to paycheck, such as most IHSS/WPCS providers, access to unemployment insurance may make the difference between staying in their home or being forced onto the street.

IHSS/WPCS providers care for seniors and people with disabilities. Unfortunately, COVID-19 increases the risk that this population will be hospitalized or die, and consequently leave providers unemployed.

Our state must do everything in its power to support family caregivers in this time of uncertainty. We urge you to issue an executive order to expand eligibility for unemployment insurance to include spouse and parent IHSS/WPCS providers.

Thank you for your tireless leadership during this momentous challenge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sydney Kamlager". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark ink on a white background.

**SYDNEY KAMLAGER**

Assemblymember, 54<sup>th</sup> District

**ADAM GRAY**

Assemblymember, 21<sup>st</sup> District

**ASH KALRA**

Assemblymember, 27<sup>th</sup> District

**JOSE MEDINA**

Assemblymember, 61<sup>st</sup> District

**SCOTT WIENER**

Senator, 11<sup>th</sup> District

**SHIRLEY WEBER**

Assemblymember, 79<sup>th</sup> District