

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0009
(916) 319-2009
FAX (916) 319-2109

DISTRICT OFFICE
9250 LAGUNA SPRINGS DRIVE, SUITE 220
ELK GROVE, CA 95758
(916) 670-7888
FAX (916) 670-7893



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ENFORCEMENT RELATIONS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES

May 21, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
Office of Governor Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Barbers and Cosmetologists – A Racial Equity Framework

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Black Small Business Association of California (BSBA) has brought to my attention the detrimental impacts that the statewide stay at home order has had on barbers and cosmetologists in California. Black barbershops and beauty salons – institutions that allowed black communities to survive segregation and legal exclusion from other employment opportunities for decades – are struggling. These once thriving businesses, that serve as hubs for many in the Black community, and support hundreds of families, are in need of immediate financial assistance to help sustain their businesses until California reopens.

While I understand the need to prioritize public health and safety during this unprecedented crisis, the economic devastation of this moment cannot be overstated. This loss of income is compounded by the limits of California's safety-net services and has left too many barbers and cosmetologists without assistance during this difficult time. Many of these individuals have applied for Unemployment Insurance, but were denied. Others applied for the federal Payment Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans through the Small Business Administration, and were denied access to these funds as well.

The goal is to help these entrepreneurs return to work safely and responsibly. I support BSBA in their commitment to helping Sacramento meet the moment and provide economic assistance to those who need it most. These Black business owners, who make a living doing barber and cosmetology work, are at risk of permanently losing everything if they are unable to get back to work soon. I am asking for your help to protect these business owners and the families who depend on them.

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Thank you for our consideration of our request. Should you have questions, or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 319-2009. My office looks forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

JIM COOPER
Assemblymember, District 9

Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.
Assemblymember, District 59

Sydney Kamlager
Assemblymember, District 54

Cc:

Ann O'Leary, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Tom Steyer, Chief Advisor to the Governor on Business and Jobs Recovery
Speaker Anthony Rendon, California State Assembly
Pro Tempore Toni Atkins, California State Senate
Honorable Shirley Weber, California Legislative Black Caucus