

Please place your organization's letterhead
Sample support letter – Assemblymember Ken Cooley

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Insert Date

The Honorable Ken Cooley
Chair, Assembly Rules Committee
State Capitol, Room 4202
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: HR 39 (Gipson) – SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Cooley:

(Name of organization) supports House Resolution 39 (Gipson), which helps the State's health equity and economic recovery priorities by encouraging the California Assembly to explore methods to integrate equity more formally into its daily activities, including the potential adoption of equity impact analysis into the existing committee and floor bill analysis process. This resolution seeks to prevent unintended negative consequences to proposed legislation and help decision makers prioritize bills with the greatest impacts for vulnerable communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated negative health and economic outcomes for the most vulnerable in California. [COVID-19 data collected by the California Department of Public Health](#) highlights racial and ethnic disparities and demonstrates that Latinos, African Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders are unjustly dying from COVID-19 at disproportionately higher levels. The [Governor's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery](#) found that COVID-19 unemployment rates are greatest in sectors that employ a greater number of workers of color with low wages (e.g., hospitality, food service, retail, and construction). These outcomes are compounded by a [\\$54.3 billion State General Fund deficit for the 2020-21 budget](#) that necessitated prioritization, cost shifts, and reduced spending.

There is precedence for equity analysis of bills in other states, particularly for bills relating to criminal justice and child welfare systems. Five states such as Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Oregon, and New Jersey have adopted and implemented racial impact statements (RIS). Seven additional states have introduced RIS legislation (i.e. Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Illinois, Oklahoma, Minnesota, and Wisconsin).

Given these circumstances it is imperative that decision makers have data points on the equity impact of bills in committee and floor analyses to reduce unintended consequences and help prioritize legislation that reduces the health & wealth gap. California has an opportunity to lead in this moment of COVID-19 crisis and strengthen its bill analysis process to ensure that legislation will aid our state in a fair and equitable recovery and not exacerbate health and economic inequities.

Insert information about your organization's commitment to equity and justice in legislative decision making

For these reasons, (Name of Organization) supports HR 39 (Gipson) and respectfully requests your "Aye" vote. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Send Email to: Michael Erke Michael.Erke@asm.ca.gov
Send Copy to Brianna Leon, Brianna.Leon@asm.ca.gov and Kelsey Lyles
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