



OCT 12 2019

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 225 which would authorize the appointment of California residents, without a requirement of citizenship, to boards and commissions in the state.

Building a more representative government requires an assessment of barriers that prevent talented and qualified Californians from consideration for public service. This bill strengthens representation by allowing more Californians to be considered for public service on boards and commissions based on the merits of their application, and not their current immigration status.

California doesn't succeed in spite of our diversity — our state succeeds because of it. Citizenship should not be a barrier to consideration for appointment to boards and commissions in California. Moreover, I recognize that the federal administration's assaults on pathways to legal status and citizenship are obstructing opportunity for many talented Californians.

Approximately one-third of our immigrant population has legal status but has not yet reached citizenship. Moreover, half of all children in California have at least one immigrant parent. The children of our state must see themselves represented and included in their government. Their parents – our friends and family members, our teachers and first responders, our doctors and service members – contribute to our economy and the progress of our state. Immigrants want to contribute beyond their taxes and labor. They deserve the opportunity to give back through public service.

SB 225 does not provide a right to be appointed and does not permit the state to circumvent federal employment laws, but it does take an important step to achieve a California for All by allowing more Californians to be considered for appointments on boards and commissions.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

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