California workers who file taxes using Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) are currently excluded from the CalEITC, the state’s refundable tax credit for working individuals and families with low incomes.

The majority of these excluded immigrant workers – an estimated 2 in 3 of those who could be eligible for the CalEITC – perform jobs considered “essential” during the COVID-19 crisis. Many work in jobs vital to our food supply. An estimated 1 in 4 (24%) work in the farm industry, and an estimated 1 in 6 (18%) work in restaurants, in the occupations involved in preparing food for take-out or delivery. An estimated 1 in 11 (9%) work in grocery stores or grocery wholesale.

California has officially recognized that the jobs these workers do are “essential” to the community and economy. Ending the inequitable exclusion of these Californians from the CalEITC would respect their long-standing essential contributions to the state.

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