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CONSENT CALENDAR

April 25 2017

To: Honorable Members of the City Council
From: Councilmembers Kriss Worthington, Ben Bartlett, and Sophie Hahn
Subject: Support AB 291 Immigrant Tenant Protection Act

RECOMMENDATION

That Berkeley City Council sends a letter to both State Senator Nancy Skinner and Assembly member Tony Thurmond, urging them to vote yes on AB291, the Immigrant Tenant Protection Act.

BACKGROUND

Proposed by Assembly member David Chieu, the Immigrant Tenant Protection Act strengthens state law to protect immigrants from abusive landowners. The bill would prohibit landowners from disclosing information related to their immigration status as well as barring them from threatening to report them to immigration authorities. Those who choose to violate this law would be subject to a fine. This makes it harder for agencies tasked with deporting undocumented immigrants to acquire information used to identify them. With AB 291, California continues to lead the nation in protecting the rights of those America’s most vulnerable communities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Minimal

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No Negative impact

MORE INFORMATION

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB291

CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington 510-981-7170
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Dear Senator Nancy Skinner,

The Berkeley City Council requests your support for the support Immigrant Tenant Protection Act (AB 291).

Proposed by Assembly member David Chieu, AB 291 forbids landowners from exploiting their tenant's immigration status by threatening or disclosing sensitive information to the immigration authorities. The bill makes it more difficult to identify and deport undocumented immigrants, thereby extending a layer of security to those targeted by harsh immigration policies. Berkeley is a sanctuary city, and in a time when America's political climate is hostile toward immigrants, it is more important than ever to do whatever necessary to safeguard them from forcible removal from their families and homes.

Respectfully,
The Berkeley City Council

Dear Assembly member Tony Thurmond,

The Berkeley City Council requests your support for the support Immigrant Tenant Protection Act (AB 291).

Proposed by Assembly member David Chieu, AB 291 forbids greedy landowners from exploiting their tenant's immigration status by threatening or disclosing sensitive information to the immigration authorities. By doing this, this bill only makes it more difficult for the President to carry out his agenda based on demonizing and fear mongering those who are the most vulnerable in our communities. Berkeley is a sanctuary city and in a time when the political climate in this country is hostile toward our immigrant brothers and sisters it is our duty to do whatever we can to safe guard them from forcible removal from their families and home.

Respectfully,
The Berkeley City Council