**Put on your organization’s letterhead**

**Sample support letter – SB 644 (Leyva)
DUE: TBD**

**SUBMIT ONLINE to** [**Senate Health Committee**](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/%20) **(You will need to create organization account.)**
**AND SEND COPY to Health Access’ Administrative & Legislative Assistant** **jtorres@health-access.org**

DATE

The Honorable Dr. Richard Pan

Chair, Senate Health Committee

State Capitol, Room 2191

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 644 (Leyva) – SUPPORT**

Dear Dr. Pan:

[NAME OF ORGANIZATION] is pleased to support SB 644 (Leyva) which as introduced would enable Covered California to conduct outreach to people who apply for unemployment insurance or other benefits from the Employee Development Department (EDD).

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to unprecedented job loss and drops in income, however both Medi-Cal and Covered California have experienced lower-than-expected enrollment, particularly for communities of color who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. This suggests some Californians are forgoing coverage or are not getting connected with the best coverage options.

One of the top hurdles to achieving universal health coverage is making sure Californians are aware of their options, especially as they experience transitions in employment and income. Currently, unemployment insurance checks sent by EDD include a Covered California notice about the availability of health coverage options. However, these are only sent once a claim has been approved and there is no follow-up.

SB 644 will allow EDD to share information with Covered California for the purpose of outreach on affordable health coverage options to applicants for Unemployment Insurance and other EDD programs, those who have exhausted their EDD benefits, and those who employers have reported as having lost employment. The Covered California application also includes a Medi-Cal application.

[ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION, WHY YOU SUPPORT SB 644]

Existing California law allows EDD to share information with almost three dozen state agencies as well as the federal government and unemployment insurance agencies in other states—but not Covered California. If SB 644 becomes law, Covered California would be able to conduct proactive, targeted outreach to a population that is likely to benefit from information on coverage options, including both Covered California and Medi-Cal.

For these reasons, [ORGANIZATION NAME] is pleased to support SB 644 (Leyva).

Sincerely,

NAME

WORK TITLE

cc: Members, Senate Health Committee