

2021 Labor Legislative Victories

SB 29 (Umberg): Last year, AB 860 (Berman) was signed into law by the Governor, which allowed Californians to participate in the election in a way that safeguarded their health and safety while counties supported the integrity of their votes. This bill was supported by the California Labor Federation and its affiliates who believed that this was the best way to preserve the inclusiveness of our democracy while increasing safety and access for voters during a poignant time in the pandemic. Yet, the changes established by AB 860 were only applicable for the November 3, 2020 statewide General Election. SB 29 requires county elections officials to mail a vote by mail ballot to every registered voter for elections proclaimed or conducted prior to January 1, 2022, allowing us the opportunity to remain vigilant to protect working people and registered voters from this public health crisis for California's elections by minimizing crowds through early voting and ballot drop access.

Position: Support

Lobbyist: Janice O'Malley

SB 93 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review): The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the glaring inequalities and failings of our employment system. Low-income workers, particularly in the hospitality, travel, event, and building services industries, have been laid off with no guarantee of a job when their employer reopens after struggling for over a year. SB 93 will, until December 31, 2024, require an employer to offer its laid-off employees, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, specified information about job positions that become available for which the laid-off employees are qualified, and to offer positions to those laid-off employees based on a preference system, in accordance with specified timelines and procedures. This means that nearly 700,000 laid-off hospitality workers could stand to return to their previous jobs under SB 93 when those positions become available as the economy reopens. Right of recall are critical to the state's economic recovery.

Position: Support

Lobbyist: Eduardo Martinez

SB 95 (Skinner): All forms of employer-provided COVID-19-specific emergency paid sick leave expired on December 31, 2020, and workers have since been left with either inadequate or no rights to sick leave while recovering from COVID-19, quarantining following exposure, or caring for a family member sick with COVID-19. SB 95 provides for COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave for covered employees who are unable to work or telework due to certain reasons related to COVID-19, including that the employee has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19. The bill will entitle a qualified covered employee to 80 hours of COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave, allowing workers to also use paid sick leave when recovering from or getting a vaccine.

Position: Support

Lobbyist: Mitch Steiger

OPEIU 29 AFL CIO

