**Please send a support letter – On your letter head**

**Sample Support Letter – Assembly Bill 2184 (Chiu)**

**Send Fax To**: 916.319.2117

**Send Copy to:** Samantha.Huynh@asm.ca.gov AND sjacob@lccr.com

**Date [ADD DATE]**

Assemblymember David Chiu

California State Capitol P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94293

**Re: Assembly Bill 2184 (Chiu) - Support**

Dear Assemblymember Chiu,

[**Name of Your Organization**] supports Assembly Bill 2184, which clarifies the information required to be collected for issuing business licenses to enhance entrepreneurship and reduce barriers to economic opportunity in California.

**[Describe your organization, why your org supports AB 2184]**

California has led the nation in advancing bold policies that recognize the contributions of immigrants and the value of integrating all state residents, regardless of immigration status, into the economy.

Immigrant households represent a substantial share of all spending power in the state, currently making up 28% of the total household income in California. In addition to contributing about 32% of California’s GDP, immigrants bring innovation and cultural diversity to our state through entrepreneurship. A 2012 study found that 1 in 3 small business owners in California are immigrants. Meanwhile, another study found that from 2007 to 2011, immigrants in the state founded an estimated 45% of all new businesses.

However, there are systemic barriers to immigrant Californians seeking economic opportunity through business ownership. For example, the cities where many immigrant business owners reside, including Los Angeles, and almost half of the cities in the Central Valley (across the counties of Fresno, Tulare, Kings, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Merced, Amador, Kern, San Bernardino and Sacramento), currently require individual applicants for business licenses to provide a Social Security Number (SSN) in their application. This precludes business owners who lack SSNs from formalizing their businesses and filing local taxes.

Business owners who lack SSNs can apply for federal individual taxpayer identification numbers (ITINs), driver’s licenses and, in certain cities, municipal identification cards. In San Francisco, the business license application specifically allows for the provision of an ITIN in place of an SSN.

AB 2184 enables integration of immigrant business owners into the state economy and protects the privacy of their personal information by:

* Requiring local governments that license businesses to accept any of the following alternative numbers in lieu of a Social Security Number: a California driver’s license or identification number, an individual taxpayer identification number, or a municipal identification number.
* Protecting numbers collected by a local government from disclosure except as required to administer the licensure program or to comply with a state law or state or federal court order.

Clarifying that other forms of identification are acceptable for local business license applications is consistent with California’s goals to fully integrate immigrants into the state’s economy and public life, while also supporting regulatory compliance.

This bill reduces barriers for immigrant business owners to apply for local business licenses and aligns the business license process with efforts to advance the social and economic interest of our state.

For these reasons, [**Name of Your Organization**] supports AB 2184.

Sincerely,

**Your Name and Title**