

# MONTEREY COUNTY



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June 8, 2021

The Honorable Anna Caballero  
California State Senate  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 714 (Caballero) Democratic Party: county central committees: appointment and election. - SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Caballero:

The County of Monterey is pleased to convey our support for your bill SB 714 (Caballero), which would ensure DREAMers and aspiring citizens can be appointed and elected to a county central committee.

An estimated 200,000 DREAMers live in California, alongside an immigrant population of over 2.5 million. A DREAMer is a person born in a foreign country who was brought to the U.S. as a baby or young child. Many DREAMers have only known this country as their homeland. DREAMers are active members of their communities, have obtained college degrees, and served in the military. During the pandemic, DREAMers have worked as essential workers in health care, education, agriculture and other food-related jobs.

California has long recognized the important and integral role of immigrants in our society and economy, and over the years has enacted policies to increase their civic participation. Most recently, a law was signed to allow immigrants to serve on state boards and commissions. Additionally, in 2019, the California Democratic Party passed a resolution to expand eligibility for all Californians to register with the party, regardless of immigration status. The inability of aspiring citizen to be appointed or run for elections to a county central committee remains an obstacle to full civic participation. Democracy is strengthened with diverse participation and meaningful inclusion. As California looks forward to its pandemic recovery, it is important that members of the communities most affected are not prohibited from a seat at the table and able to pursue the leadership roles they seek.

SB 714 would amend Elections Code Section 7209 to allow aspiring citizens to be appointed and elected to a county central committee. Immigrants' voices, experiences, and talent must be recognized and integrated to ensure direct participation in the Democratic Party.

For these reasons, Monterey County supports SB 714 (Caballero). Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

**DRAFT**

Wendy Root Askew  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Cc: Hon. John Laird, 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Hon. Mark Stone, 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Hon. Robert Rivas, 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)  
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)