

# Immigration and the California Economy

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# The Economic Context

- CA and the nation are nearing a tidal wave of baby boomer retirements
- 7 of 10 job openings in the next 10 years will come from replacing existing workers
- These opening are in high, middle and lower skill jobs—everywhere in the economy
- Only an “all hands on deck” policy can support broad based prosperity

# Immigrants and the CA Economy

- To meet the workforce needs of the CA economy will need
  - to make sure that ALL children (including the children of immigrants) get a great education
  - promote policies that welcome immigrants with talent and capital
  - welcome and integrate all immigrants into our economy, including unauthorized immigrants

# California—A Welcoming State

- California has prospered by welcoming people regardless of where they were born, their religious and sexual orientation or the color of their skin.
- These welcoming policies have supported innovation, passion and energy in many fields including technology and entertainment.

# We are All in this Together

- California needs all students and workers to be performing at their best level
- Immigrants constitute nearly 30% of the state's residents and the share is higher if you include their children.
- Imagine a prosperous economy if a large share of this 30%+ of the population is left behind—it doesn't work.

# Immigration Issues and Concerns Vary Among Regions and Industries

- Immigration brings to mind different issues and concerns in Silicon Valley compared to Southern California.
- California has large and growing Hispanic and Asian immigrant communities.
- It is important for the economy that all groups share a common purpose in addition to their specific areas of interest.

# Immigrants and Education

- The overwhelming evidence is that education pays.
- This is true regardless of whether we talk about native-born or immigrant children and true regardless of the legal status of children.
- The concept that educating immigrant children is a fiscal drain turns this evidence on its head and will harm the California economy.