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Support for SB 782 (Limón): Ensuring Transparency and Diversity in Gubernatorial Appointments

Since 2021, Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) has championed legislation urging the publication of demographic information on gubernatorial appointees which the Governor’s office currently collects. HOPE sponsored three bills, SB 702 (2021), SB 1387 (2022), and SB 702 (2023), all introduced by Senator Monique Limón, 2021. Despite bipartisan support, Governor Gavin Newsom vetoed bills requiring the publication of gubernatorial appointee demographics three times, citing in his veto message, “...the demographic information specified for reporting under this bill is optional and self-reported by candidates. Consequently, the report required by this bill would not necessarily accurately reflect the diversity of appointees.”

In light of the latest veto, HOPE undertook a thorough examination of publicly available data from January 1 to December 15, 2023. In January 2024, HOPE published the [California Gubernatorial Appointments Report](#), a comprehensive analysis of the

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diversity and representation within the Governor's appointed boards, commissions, agencies, and task forces in 2023. Among the report's findings:

- **Disparities in racial representation:** White Californians hold the majority of appointments at 52%, while Latinos, Black, AAPI, and Native American Californians collectively make up 39%, with 9% being unknown or unavailable.
- **Gender parity:** The gender distribution of gubernatorial appointments indicates that 47% are female, 52% are male, and 1% fall under the category of other/unknown.
- **Intersection of race and gender:** HOPE's analysis combines race and gender to reveal where further representation gaps may exist with White men comprising 30%, White women at 22%, Black men at 5%, Black women at 6%, Latino men at 8.5%, Latina women at 9%, AAPI men at 3.5%, AAPI women at 5%, Native American men at 1%, and Native American women at 1%.
- **Geographic representation:** The majority of appointees reside in Northern California and the Bay Area (63%), with Los Angeles County at 15%, the Central Valley, Inland Empire and Greater San Diego area all at 5% each, and Orange County and Central Coast at about 3% each.
- **Political Affiliation:** The majority of appointments are Democrats (71%), with Republicans at 9%, No Preference at 18%, and Others at 2%.

Clearly much work remains to ensure the Governor's appointees reflect the diversity of the Californians he governs.

SB 782 is supported by Black Women Organized for Political Action, Close the Gap California, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, Communities United for

Restorative Youth Justice, Courage California, National Women's Political Caucus of California, amongst several other organizations and it has no formal opposition. Transparency is the foundation of good governance. California deserves nothing less.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors express support for SB 782 (Limón), which would require the Office of the Governor to maintain a list of every state board and commission on its website and publish a report that contains aggregate demographic information of appointments by the Office of the Governor.

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