



September 3, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 96814

RE: AB 1457 (Cervantes and Reyes) – SUPPORT

Orange County Business Council (OCBC), the leading voice of business in Orange County, is pleased to support AB 1457 (Cervantes and Reyes).

AB 1457 establishes a pilot project to enhance the ability of a regionally-focused statewide business training center network to work hand-in-hand with business leaders, small business service providers, as well as other workforce partners, to get people back to work. This pilot will support the upskilling of the regional workforce to meet the demand for jobs in essential industry sectors during the pandemic and in the emerging and dominant industry sectors in the post COVID-19 economy.

OCBC has been a regional leader in supporting Orange County's hardest-hit industries, such as tourism, which has lost over 75,000 jobs since this time last year. Immediate training opportunities are crucial to support the millions of Californians who are unemployed due to COVID-19. Time is of the essence, which is why AB 1457 wisely utilizes existing community college contract education centers to prepare the nearly 200,000 unemployed residents of Orange County to quickly fill job openings. OCBC's workforce development partners could support Orange County residents even more effectively if AB 1457 is signed into law.

Questions regarding this letter and OCBC's support may be addressed by Jennifer Ward, Senior Vice President of Advocacy & Government Affairs, at jward@ocbc.org; and Jesse Ben-Ron, Vice President of Workforce & Economic Development, at jbenron@ocbc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Ward".

Jennifer Ward
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
Orange County Business Council