

June 16, 2022

Dear Governor Newsom,

We, the undersigned International Presidents of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), American Federation of Teacher (AFT), American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Communication Workers of America (CWA), Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA), National Education Association (NEA), Service Employees International Union (SEIU), UNITE-HERE, United Brotherhood of Carpenters, United Farm Workers (UFW), and the, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), collectively represent over 17 million workers.

In California, we see a critical opportunity to lift up and empower the state's half million fast food workers with AB 257, the FAST Recovery Act and we urge you to support and champion this legislation. Like so many service and care jobs, fast food work is predominantly done by Black, Latino, and immigrant workers. Global fast food companies like McDonald's have driven down labor standards in this sector and their lack of accountability has had ripple effects on their frontline workers and their communities.

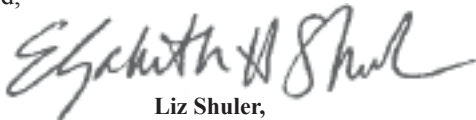
Eighty percent of fast food workers in California are people of color. Overall, 60% of fast food workers in California are Latino or Latina. The low wages and lack of benefits in this industry contribute to high rates of poverty in the Latino community. In fact 52% of California families with fast food income earners rely on public assistance to get by. Current labor law and the franchise system have stacked the rules against workers and limit their ability to win improvements at work. California fast food workers have been organizing for ten years to improve conditions in their industry.

By passing AB 257, the FAST Recovery Act, California will create a sector council where workers, fast food employers and state agencies work together to craft common sense solutions to the issues that have long plagued the industry. We know that frontline workers are themselves best-positioned to help propose and implement solutions to the issues they face on the job daily. This bill brings workers to the table and gives them a chance to rewrite the rules so the rules keep them safe.

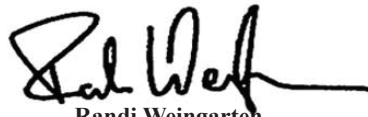
AB257 creates an economic model to lift up low wage, predominantly immigrant, workers in the state. This bill is an opportunity to connect policy with your progressive values and demonstrate that California knows how to lead the nation with innovative solutions that tackle rising inequality.

We strongly encourage you to champion AB 257, and support bold policy to address economic and racial inequality for the state's half million fast food workers.

Signed,



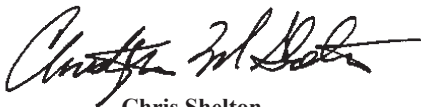
**Liz Shuler,**  
American Federation of Labor and  
Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)



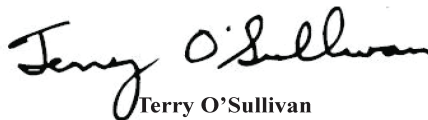
**Randi Weingarten,**  
American Federation of Teacher (AFT)



**Lee Saunders**  
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**Chris Shelton**  
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**Becky Pringle**  
National Education Association (NEA)



**Mary Kay Henry**  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)



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**Doug McCarron**  
United Brotherhood of Carpenters



**Teresa Romero**  
United Farm Workers (UFW)



**Marc Perrone**  
United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW)

cc:

Senator Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore  
Jim Deboo, Executive Secretary, Office of the Governor  
David Huerta, President SEIU California  
Anna Montesantos, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor