

Date of Hearing: April 14, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Ash Kalra, Chair

AB 2624 Bonta – As Amended April 9, 2026

SUBJECT: PRIVACY FOR IMMIGRATION SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDERS

KEY ISSUE: SHOULD THE SECRETARY OF STATE BE REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH AN ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM FOR DESIGNATED IMMIGRATION SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDERS, EMPLOYEES, AND VOLUNTEERS?

SYNOPSIS

Existing law requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to maintain the Safe at Home (SAH) program for survivors of domestic violence who wish to shield their address from public access. Recently, the Legislature expanded the program to capture health care providers who provide gender-affirming health services. In light of the rise of anti-immigrant sentiment across the country, this bill would require the Secretary of State to establish a similar program for immigration support service providers. The bill requires the SOS to provide an alternate mailing address for qualified applicants and provides standards and procedures for maintaining the participant's confidentiality. Of particular relevance to this Committee, the new program prohibits the public dissemination of a participant's personal information, and provides for a private right of action in civil court for participants whose information is shared in violation of the bill's prohibitions.

This bill is sponsored by the Women's Foundation of California – Solis Policy Institute and the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA). It enjoys support from a coalition of immigrants' rights advocates, legal services organizations, civil rights advocates, labor unions, and nonprofit organizations. There is no known opposition. This bill was previously heard by the Assembly Committee on Privacy and Consumer Protection where it was approved on a vote of 11-2. Should it be approved by this Committee, it will be heard next by the Assembly Committee on Public Safety.

SUMMARY: Establishes an address and information protection program for designated immigration support services providers, employees, and volunteers. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Makes the following findings and declarations on behalf of the Legislature:
 - a) Persons providing support services to the immigrant community have been subject to harassment, threats, and intimidation for their work;
 - b) Persons working in organizations that provide immigration support services have faced doxxing, courthouse targeting, online harassment, anti-immigrant vigilante treats, and coordinated campaigns and death threats. These acts have risen to alarming levels in 2025 and will continue due to the current federal administration's anti-immigration attitude and policies.
- 2) Defines all of the following for purposes of the bill:

- a) “Address” means a residential street address, school address, or work address of an individual, as specified on the individual’s application to be a program participant under this chapter.
 - b) “Designated immigration support services” means services provided to the immigrant population, including, but not limited to, legal representation, legal assistance, advocacy, case management, humanitarian relief, immigration resources, referrals, translation services, counseling services, and healthcare.
 - c) “Designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer” means a person who provides, assists in providing, or receives immigration support services at a designated immigration support services facility.
 - d) “Designated immigration support services facility” means a facility where immigration support services are provided, including, but not limited to, nonprofit organization offices, Department of Justice-recognized entities, community legal clinics, law offices, accredited representative sites that provide immigration legal services, and health care facilities.
 - e) “Domicile” means a place of habitation, as defined in Section 349 of the Elections Code.
 - f) “Harassment” is repeated, unreasonable, and unwelcome conduct directed at a targeted individual that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their own safety or the safety of a household member. Harassing conduct may include, but is not limited to, following, stalking, telephone calls, or written correspondence.
 - g) “Image” includes, but is not limited to, a photograph, video footage, sketch, or computer-generated image that provides a means to visually identify the person depicted.
 - h) “Personal information” means information that identifies, relates to, describes, or is capable of being associated with a designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer, including, but not limited to, their name, signature, social security number, physical characteristics or description, address, telephone number, passport number, driver’s license or state identification card number, license plate number, employment, employment history, and financial information.
 - i) “Public entity” means a federal, state, or local governmental agency.
 - j) “Publicly post” or “publicly display” means to intentionally communicate or otherwise make available to the general public.
 - k) “Work for a public entity” means work performed by an employee of a public entity, or work performed for a public entity by a person pursuant to a contract with the public entity.
- 3) Authorizes an adult person, a parent or guardian acting on behalf of a minor, or a guardian acting on behalf of an incapacitated person, who is domiciled in California, to apply to the Secretary of State to have an address designated by the Secretary of State to serve as the person’s address or the address of the minor or incapacitated person. Requires an application to be completed in person at a community-based assistance program designated by the

Secretary of State. Requires the application process to include a requirement that the applicant meet with a counselor and receive orientation information about the program. Requires the Secretary of State to approve an application if it is filed in the manner and on the form prescribed by the Secretary of State and it contains all of the following:

- a) If the applicant alleges that the basis for the application is that the applicant, or the minor or incapacitated person on whose behalf the application is made, is a designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer who is fearful for their safety or the safety of their family because of their affiliation with a designated immigration support services facility, the application shall be accompanied by all of the following:
 - i) Documentation showing that the individual is to commence employment or is currently employed as a provider or employee at a designated immigration support services facility or is volunteering at a designated immigration support services facility;
 - ii) One of the following:
 - (1) A certified statement signed by a person authorized by that designated immigration support services facility stating that the facility or any of its providers, employees, or volunteers is or was the target of threats, harassment, or acts of violence or harassment within one year of the date of the application. Makes a person who willfully certifies as true any material pursuant to this provision that the person knows to be false guilty of a misdemeanor;
 - (2) A certified statement signed by the provider or employee of, or volunteer for, the designated immigration support services facility stating that they have been the target of threats, harassment, or acts of violence within one year of the date of the application because of their association with the designated support services facility. Makes a person who willfully certifies as true any material pursuant to this provision that the person knows to be false guilty of a misdemeanor;
 - (3) A workplace violence restraining order described in Section 527.8 of the Code of Civil Procedure, issued after a noticed hearing, or a civil restraining order described in Section 527.6 of the Code of Civil Procedure, issued after a noticed hearing, protecting the applicant or the minor or incapacitated person on whose behalf the application is made. Requires the order to be based upon threats or acts of violence to the applicant or the minor or incapacitated person on whose behalf the application is made and connected with the designated immigration support services facility.
 - iii) A sworn statement that the applicant fears for their safety or the safety of their family, or the safety of the minor or incapacitated person on whose behalf the application is made due to their affiliation with the designated immigration support services facility authorized to provide the declaration in ii);
- b) Requires the application to be accompanied by documentation by the designated immigration support services facility showing the length of time the volunteer has committed to working at the facility in addition to the documents specified in a), if the

applicant alleges that the basis for the application is that the applicant is a designated immigration support services facility volunteer.

- c) Requires the application to be accompanied by both of the following if the applicant alleges that the basis of the application is that the applicant, or the minor or incapacitated person on whose behalf the application is made, is a person who is or has been the target of threats or acts of violence because the applicant is obtaining or seeking to obtain services at a designated immigration support services facility within one year of the date of the application:
 - i) A sworn statement that the applicant has good reason to fear for their safety or the safety of their family;
 - ii) Any police, court, or other governmental agency records or files that show any complaints of the alleged threats or acts of violence;
- d) A designation of the Secretary of State as agent for purposes of service of process and for the purpose of receipt of mail.
 - i) Requires service on the Secretary of State of any summons, writ, notice, demand, or process to be made by delivering to the address confidentiality program personnel of the office of the Secretary of State two copies of the summons, writ, notice, demand, or process.
 - ii) Requires the Secretary of State to immediately cause a copy of a summons, writ, notice, demand, or process served on the Secretary of State to be forwarded to the program participant at the address shown on the records of the address confidentiality program so that the summons, writ, notice, demand, or process is received by the program participant within three days of the Secretary of State having received it.
 - iii) Requires the Secretary of State to keep a record of all summonses, writs, notices, demands, and processes served upon the Secretary of State under this new section and record the time of that service and the Secretary of State's action.
 - iv) Holds the office of the Secretary of State and any agent or person employed by the Secretary of State harmless from any liability in any action brought by a person injured or harmed as a result of the handling of first-class mail on behalf of program participants.
- e) The mailing address where the applicant can be contacted by the Secretary of State, and the telephone number or numbers where the applicant can be called by the Secretary of State.
- f) The address or addresses that the applicant requests not to be disclosed for the reason that disclosure will increase the risk of threat or acts of violence or harassment toward the applicant.
- g) The signature of the applicant and of any individual or representative of any office designated in writing who assisted in the preparation of the application, and the date on which the applicant signed the application.

- 4) Requires applications to be filed with the office of the Secretary of State.
- 5) Requires submitted applications to be accompanied by payment of a fee to be determined by the Secretary of State. Prohibits the fee from exceeding the reasonable costs of enrolling in the program. Also allows annual fees to be assessed by the Secretary of State to defray the reasonable costs of maintaining the program. Requires annual fees assessed by the Secretary of State to also be used to reimburse the General Fund for any amounts expended from that fund for the purposes of this new provision.
- 6) Requires the Secretary of State to certify the applicant as a program participant upon filing a properly completed application. Requires applicants, with the exception of designated immigration support services facilities volunteers, to be certified for four years following the date of filing unless the certification is withdrawn, or invalidated before that date. Requires designated immigration support services facility volunteers to be certified until six months from the last date of volunteering with the facility. Requires the Secretary of State to establish a renewal procedure by rule. Authorizes a minor program participant who reaches 18 years of age to renew as an adult following the renewal procedures established by the Secretary of State.
- 7) Makes a person who falsely attests in an application that disclosure of the applicant's address would endanger the applicant's safety or the safety of the applicant's family or the minor or incapacitated person on whose behalf the application is made, or who knowingly provides false or incorrect information upon making an application, guilty of a misdemeanor. Requires a notice to be printed in bold type and in a conspicuous location on the face of the application informing the applicant of the penalties under this section.
- 8) Requires the Secretary of State to cancel certification of a program participant who fails to disclose a change in employment status, or termination as a provider or volunteer.
- 9) Requires the SOS to retain records upon termination of a program participant's certification as follows:
 - a) Except as provided in Government Code Section 6218.14 (g) or Section 6218.17 (a) of the Government Code, any records or documents pertaining to a program participant shall be held confidential;
 - b) All records or documents pertaining to a program participant shall be retained for a period of three years after termination of certification and then destroyed without further notice.
- 10) Authorizes a program participant to withdraw from program participation by submitting to the SOS written notification of withdrawal and their current identification card. Requires certification to be terminated on the date of the receipt of this notification.
- 11) Authorizes the SOS to terminate a program participant's certification and invalidate the participant's authorization card for any of the following reasons:
 - a) The program participant's certification term has expired and certification renewal has not been completed;

- b) The SOS has determined that false information was used in the application process to qualify as a program participant or that participation in the program is being used as subterfuge to avoid detection or illegal or criminal activity or apprehension by law enforcement;
 - c) The program participant no longer resides at the residential address provided to the SOS, and has not provided at least seven days' prior notice in writing of a change in address;
 - d) A service of process document or mail forwarded to the program participant by the SOS is returned as nondeliverable;
 - e) The program participant who is a provider, employee, or volunteer fails to disclose a change in employment, or termination as volunteer or provider;
 - f) The program participant, who reaches 18 years of age during their certification term, has not renewed their certification within 60 days of them reaching 18 years of age.
- 12) Authorizes the SOS to refuse to renew a program participant's certification if the adult program participant or the parent or guardian acting on behalf of a minor or incapacitated person has abandoned their domicile in this state.
- 13) Requires the SOS to send written notification of the intended termination to the program participant if termination is based on any of the reasons under 11) or 12). Grants the program participant 30 business days in which to appeal the termination under procedures developed by the SOS.
- 14) Requires the SOS to notify in writing the county elections official and authorized personnel of the appropriate county clerk's office and the county recording office of the program participant's certification withdrawal, invalidation, expiration, or termination.
- 15) Requires authorized personnel, upon receipt of this termination notification, to transmit to the Secretary of State all appropriate administrative records pertaining to the program participant and the record transmitting agency is no longer responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of a terminated program participant's record.
- 16) Authorizes the SOS to disclose information contained in the participant's application following termination of program participant certification as a result of 11) b).
- 17) Authorizes a program participant to request that state and local agencies use the address designated by the Secretary of State as the participant's address. Requires state and local agencies to accept the address designated by the SOS as a program participant's substitute address when creating a public record, unless the SOS has determined both of the following:
- a) The agency has a bona fide statutory or administrative requirement for the use of the address that would otherwise be confidential under this chapter;
 - b) The address will be used only for those statutory and administrative purposes and shall not be publicly disseminated.
- 18) Authorizes a program participant to request that state and local agencies use the address designated by the SOS as the participant's address. When modifying or maintaining a public

record, excluding the record of a birth, fetal death, death, or marriage registered under the relevant Health and safety Code sections, requires state and local agencies to accept the address designated by the Secretary of State as a program participant's substitute address, unless the Secretary of State has determined both of the following:

- a) The agency has a bona fide statutory or administrative requirement for the use of the address that would otherwise be confidential under this chapter;
 - b) This address will be used only for those statutory and administrative purposes and shall not be publicly disseminated.
- 19) Authorizes a program participant to use the address designated by the SOS as the participant's work address.
- 20) Requires the office of the SOS to forward all first-class mail and all mail sent by a governmental agency to the appropriate program participants. Authorizes the office of the SOS, in its discretion, to refuse to handle or forward packages regardless of size or type of mailing.
- 21) Notwithstanding 17), requires program participants to comply with the provisions specified in Vehicle code Section 1808.21 (d) if requesting suppression of the records maintained by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Requires program participants to also comply with all other provisions of the Vehicle Code relating to providing current address information to the department.
- 22) Authorizes a program participant who is otherwise qualified to vote to seek to register and vote in a confidential manner pursuant to Elections Code Section 2166.5.
- 23) Prohibits the SOS from making a program participant's address, other than the address designated by the SOS, available for inspection or copying, except under any of the following circumstances:
- a) If requested by a law enforcement agency, to the law enforcement agency;
 - b) If directed by a court order, to a person identified in the order.
 - c) If certification has been terminated as specified.
- 24) Requires the SOS to designate state and local agencies and nonprofit agencies that may assist persons applying to be program participants. Specifies that any assistance and counseling rendered by the SOS or its designees to applicants shall in no way be construed as legal advice.
- 25) Authorizes the SOS to adopt rules to facilitate the administration of this chapter by state and local agencies. Requires the SOS to administer this chapter together with and in the same manner as the address confidentiality programs in Chapter 3.1 and Chapter 3.2.
- 26) Requires the SOS to provide each program participant a notice in clear and conspicuous font that contains all of the following:

- a) The program participant is authorized by law to request to use the participant's address designated by the SOS on real property deeds, change of ownership forms, and deeds of trust when purchasing or selling a home;
 - b) The program participant may create a revocable living trust and place their real property into the trust to protect their residential street address from disclosure in real property transactions;
 - c) The program participant may obtain a change of their legal name to protect their anonymity;
 - d) A list of contact information for entities that the program participant may contact to receive information on, or receive legal services for, the creation of a trust to hold real property or obtaining a name change, including county bar associations, legal aid societies, state and local agencies, or other nonprofit organizations that may be able to assist program participants.
- 27) Requires the SOS to submit to the Legislature, no later than January 10 of each year, a report that includes the total number of applications received for the program established by this chapter. Requires the report to disclose the number of program participants within each county and to also describe any allegations of misuse relating to election purposes.
- 28) Requires the SOS to commence accepting applications under this program on April 1, 2027;
- 29) Requires the SOS to submit to the Legislature by July 1, 2030, a report that includes the total number of pieces of mail forwarded to program participants, the number of program participants during the programs duration, the average length of time a participant remains in the program, and the targeted code change needed to improve the program's efficiency and cost-effectiveness.
- 30) Prohibits a person, business, or association from publicly posting or publicly displaying on the internet the home address of a program participant who has made a written demand of that person, business, or association to not disclose the home address of the program participant.
- 31) Prohibits a person, business, or association from knowingly posting the home address of a program participant, or of the program participant's residing spouse or child, on the internet knowing that person is a program participant and intending to cause imminent great bodily harm that is likely to occur or threatening to cause imminent great bodily harm to that individual.
- 32) Exempts interactive computer services or access software providers, as defined, from 30) – 31) unless the service or provider intends to abet or cause imminent great bodily harm that is likely to occur or threatens to cause imminent great bodily harm to a program participant.
- 33) Prohibits a person, business, or association from knowingly publicly posting or publicly displaying, disclosing, or distributing on internet websites, the personal information or image of any designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer, or other individuals residing at the same home address, with the intent to do either of the following:

- a) Incite a third person to cause imminent great bodily harm to the designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer identified in the posting or display, or to a coresident of that person, where the third person is likely to commit this harm;
 - b) Threaten the designated support services provider, employee, or volunteer identified in the posting or display, or a coresident of that person, in a manner that places the person identified or the coresident in objectively reasonable fear for their personal safety;
- 34) Authorizes a designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer whose personal information or image is made public as a result of a violation of 33), or any individual entity or organization authorized to act on their behalf, to do either of the following:
- a) Bring an action seeking injunctive or declarative relief in any court of competent jurisdiction. Authorizes a jury or court that finds that a violation has occurred to grant injunctive or declarative relief and award the successful plaintiff court costs and reasonable attorney's fees.
 - b) Bring an action for money damages in any court of competent jurisdiction. In addition to any other legal rights or remedies, if a jury or court finds that a violation has occurred, it shall award damages to that individual in an amount up to a maximum of three times the actual damages, but in no case less than \$4,000.
- 35) Prohibits a person, business, or association from publicly posting, displaying, disclosing, or distributing on internet websites, the personal information or image of a designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer, if that individual, or any individual, entity, or organization authorized to act on their behalf, has made a written demand of that person, business, or association to not disclose the personal information or image. Requires a written demand made under this paragraph to include a statement declaring that the individual is subject to the protection of this section and describing a reasonable fear for the safety of that individual or of any person residing at that individual's home address, based on a violation of 33). Makes a demand made under this paragraph effective for four years, regardless of whether or not the individual's affiliation with a designated immigration support services facility has expired prior to the end of the four-year period.
- 36) Authorizes a designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer whose personal information or image is made public as a result of a failure to honor a demand made pursuant to 35), or any individual, entity, or organization authorized to act on their behalf, to bring an action seeking injunctive or declarative relief in any court of competent jurisdiction. If a jury or court finds that a violation has occurred, it may grant injunctive or declarative relief and shall award the successful plaintiff court costs and reasonable attorney's fees.
- 37) Exempts a person or entity defined in Evidence Code Section 1070.
- 38) Prohibits a person, business, or association from soliciting, selling, or trading on the internet the personal information or image of a designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer with the intent to do either of the following;

- a) Incite a third person to cause imminent great bodily harm to the person identified in the posting or display, or to a coresident of that person, where the third person is likely to commit this harm;
 - b) Threaten the person identified in the posting or display, or a coresident of that person, in a manner that places the person identified or the coresident in objectively reasonable fear for their personal safety.
- 39) Authorizes a designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer whose personal information or image is made public as a result of a failure to honor a demand made pursuant to 38), or any individual, entity, or organization authorized to act on their behalf, to bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction. In addition to any other legal rights and remedies, if a jury or court finds that a violation has occurred, it shall award damages to that individual in an amount up to a maximum of three times the actual damages, but in no case less than \$4,000.
- 40) Exempts an internet computer service or access software provider, as defined, from liability under this section unless the service or provider intends to abet or cause bodily harm that is likely to occur or threatens to cause bodily harm to a designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer, or any person residing at the same home address.
- 41) Specifies that this section does not preclude punishment under any other provision of law.
- 42) Prohibits a person from posting on the internet or social media, with the intent that another person imminently use that information to commit a crime involving violence or a threat of violence against a designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer, or other individuals residing at the same home address, the personal information or image of a designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer, or other individuals residing at the same home address.
- 43) Makes a violation of 42) punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 per violation, imprisonment of either up to one year in a county jail or pursuant to Penal Code Section 1170 (h), or by both that fine and imprisonment.
- 44) Makes a violation of this subdivision that leads to the bodily injury of a designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer, or other individuals residing at the same home address, a felony punishable by a fine of up to \$50,000, imprisonment pursuant to Penal Code Section 1170 (h), or by both that fine and imprisonment.
- 45) Specifies that this section does not preclude punishment under any other provision of law.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the Safe at Home (SAH) address confidentiality program within the office of the Secretary of State (SOS) in order to enable state and local agencies to both accept and respond to requests for public records without disclosing the changed name or address of a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Permits any such adult victim, or parent or guardian acting on behalf of a minor or incapacitated person, to apply through a community-based victims' assistance program to have an address designated by the SOS as

his or her substitute mailing address. (Chapter 3.1 (commencing with Section 6205) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code.)

- 2) Allows reproductive health care providers, employees, volunteers, and patients to apply to the address confidentiality program through a community-based victims' assistance program, as specified. (Government Code Section 6215 *et seq.*)

FISCAL EFFECT: As currently in print this bill is keyed fiscal.

COMMENTS: In the wake of the Trump administration's sweeping immigration enforcement campaigns, demand for immigration-related legal services and related resources has skyrocketed. After just one year of Trump's second term, organizations such as Immigrant Legal Defense and the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) reported a wave of new requests for assistance from students in both the University of California and California State University systems who are currently authorized to enroll with their status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). (Delilah Brumer and Mercy Sosa, *Demand for immigration legal services spikes at California colleges* (February 3, 2025) CalMatters available at: <https://calmatters.org/education/higher-education/college-beat/2025/02/dream-centers-legal-services/>)

In the midst of the 2024 campaign, before the administration assumed power, organizations that provided shelter and resources to migrants faced vitriolic attacks from far-right conspiracy theorists. One New York Times report detailed how James O'Keefe, the right-wing figure who used to lead Project Veritas, began posting videos on X in March of 2024 claiming Catholic Charities, a faith-based organization that manages shelters for migrants in San Diego, was "an illegal holding site for women and children and speculating, without evidence, that they had been trafficked." In the wake of those posts, Catholic Charities experienced a wave of online and in-person threats, as O'Keefe's supporters began appearing at the shelters, searching for "smuggled" children. (Mirian Jordan, *Faith-Based Groups That Assist Migrants Become targets of Extremists* (June 2, 2024) New York Times available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/02/us/migrants-charities-shelters-threats.html?searchResultPosition=5>.)

Acknowledging the increasing threats targeted at individuals and organizations that provide vital services to some of our state's most vulnerable residents, this bill proposes to establish a new program for immigration support services providers that mirrors the existing Safe at Home Program currently enacted for domestic violence survivors and various health care providers. According to the author:

AB 2624 strengthens protections for individuals working in immigrant service roles, including nonprofit staff, volunteers, and legal services providers, who may face risks such as doxxing, harassment, or threats due to the nature of their work. By extending Safe at Home Program protections, the bill allows eligible participants to keep their personal information confidential in public records, helping reduce exposure to harm while supporting the continued delivery of legal, social, and humanitarian services. This proposal promotes safety, privacy, and continuity of essential services, reinforcing public confidence and ensuring that those serving communities across California can carry out their responsibilities effectively and securely."

Safe at Home. An important tool to protect the safety of persons who are subject to abuse and harassment is the Secretary of State’s (SOS) Safe at Home (SAH) address confidentiality program. The SAH program was created in 1998 to allow victims of domestic violence or stalking to obtain an alternate confidential address to be used in public records. Under the SAH program, the SOS is responsible for providing a substitute address to program participants while protecting their actual residential addresses, and also acts as the participants’ agent for service of process, and forwards mail received at the substitute address. A participant must be certified by the enrolling office and may stay in the program for four years unless recertified. Their SAH address is also accepted by California state, county, and city government agencies in lieu of a residential or other mailing address.

The SAH address confidentiality program has been expanded over time to include survivors of other crimes – including sexual assault, human trafficking, stalking, and elder or dependent adult abuse. (See Section 6205.) In 2002, the SAH program was replicated and made available to reproductive health care services providers, employees, volunteers and patients who are fearful for their safety. (See Government Code Section 6215 (a).) In 2022, as the result of AB 1131 (Newman), Chap. 554, Stats. 2022, the program for reproductive service providers, employees, volunteers and patients was expanded to include a person who is employed by or performs work pursuant to a contract with a public entity and faces threats of violence or violence or harassment from the public because of their work for the public entity. (See Government Code Section 6215 (b).) In response to increasing threats against professionals that provide gender-affirming care the Legislature once again expanded the Safe at Home program to capture gender-affirming health care providers, employees, or volunteers (AB 82 (Ward) Chap. 679, Stats. 2025).

This bill authorizes the Secretary of State to accept and grant applications from “designated immigration support services providers, employees, or volunteers,” seeking to have their personal address replaced by an address designated by the SOS. The bill defines “designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteers” as a person who provides, assists in providing, or receives immigration support services at a designated immigration support services facility, and defines “designated immigration support services facility” as a facility where immigration support services are provided, including, but not limited to, nonprofit organizations offices, Department Of Justice-recognized entities, community legal clinics, law offices, accredited representative sites that provide immigration legal services, and health care facilities.

The bill dictates various requirements for intending program participants to include in their applications, including a certified statement by their employer or service provider that they were a target of threats, harassment, or acts of violence or harassment within one year of the application; a sworn statement that the applicant fears for their safety or the safety of their family; and documentation demonstrating that the individual is going to begin working for, or is currently working for, a provider or employee at a designated immigration support services facility. The bill also requires state and local agencies to use the address designated for the participant by the SOS, authorizes a participant to register and vote in a confidential manner provided for under Elections Code Section 2166.5, and outlines procedures for withdrawal or termination from the program. As with the existing programs, this bill prohibits the SOS from making a program participant’s address available for inspection or copying, subject to narrow exceptions.

Enforcement provisions. Mirroring the existing Safe at Home program, the bill incorporates a number of provisions prohibiting third parties from publicly posting or disseminating a participant's information. Under the existing SAH, a person, business, or association is prohibited from "knowingly and intentionally publicly post[ing] or publicly display[ing] on the internet or any other public space the home address, home telephone number, or image of a program participant or other individuals residing at the same home address" with the intent to either incite a third person to cause imminent great bodily harm to the person identified or a coresident, or threaten the person identified in the posting or display, or a coresident, in a manner that places the person identified or coresident in objectively reasonable fear for their personal safety. (Government Code Section 6208.1 (a).) The statute also authorizes a participant to bring a civil claim for injunctive relief against a person who inappropriately disseminates their address. (*Id.* at (b)(2).)

Existing law also authorizes a program participant to bring a claim against an entity that solicits, sells, or trades their home address, phone number, or image with the intent to incite a third person to cause imminent great bodily harm or threaten the person identified in the posting, and entitles a participant to recover up to \$4,000. (*Id.* at (c).) Finally, existing law prohibits a person from posting a participant's home address, phone number, or personal identifying information or their family members with the intent that another person imminently use that information to commit a crime involving violence, a threat of violence, or intimidate the participant or their family. The statute makes a person or entity who violates this provision guilty of a misdemeanor and a fine of up to \$2,500, or a fine of up to \$5,000 if someone is harmed as a result. (Government Code Section 6208.2.)

This bill prohibits a person, business, or association from publicly posting or displaying a participant's home address if they have made a written demand of that entity to not disclose their address. It additionally prohibits entities from *knowingly* posting the participant's address, or their spouse or child, on the internet with the knowledge that the person is a program participant and intending to cause imminent great bodily harm "that is likely to occur or threatening to cause imminent great bodily harm to the individual." (Proposed Section 6218.18.) There is no enforcement mechanism for a violation of this provision.

The bill also prohibits a person, business, or association from knowingly publicly posting or distributing the personal information or image of any designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer, or other individuals who live with them with the intent to: incite a third person to cause imminent great bodily harm to the individual identified in the posting or display or a coresident; or threaten the person identified in the post or their coresident in a manner that places the person in objectively reasonable fear for their personal safety. The proposed section also authorizes the "designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer" to bring a claim against the entity who disseminated their information for injunctive relief and damages of up to \$4,000.

As with the existing SAH enforcement framework, the bill prohibits anyone from soliciting, selling, or trading a designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer's information with the intent to incite another to cause imminent great bodily harm or threaten the person identified in the post, and authorizes the designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer to bring a claim to seek damages of up to \$4,000.

Finally, the bill also incorporates the same prohibitions and risk of criminal prosecution for entities that post the designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer's information with the intent that another person imminently use that information to commit a crime involving violence or a threat of violence. Deviating slightly from existing law, this statute would authorize a fine of up to \$10,000 for any violation, and up to \$50,000 if the violation results in bodily injury.

Considerations. This well-intentioned measure has the benefit of working off an existing framework. However, there are a couple points of deviation.

First, this bill incorporates a definition of "personal information" that captures the applicant's name, signature, social security number, physical characteristics or description, address, telephone number, passport number, driver's license or state identification card number, license plate number, employment, employment history, and financial information. The existing SAH program and health care provider expansion only incorporate "address" to mean residential street address, school address, or work address. While the intent behind a more expansive prohibition capturing "personal information" is understandable, it is significantly broader than the existing framework. *As an alternative, potentially more streamlined approach, the author may wish to consider incorporating "designated immigration support service providers" into the existing Safe at Home framework or limiting "personal information" to a narrower scope.*

Second, the bill's current enforcement provisions appear to attempt to mirror the existing framework, but this bill does not completely align with existing law. It seems that the prohibitions at proposed Section 6218.18, referencing circumstances where a participant's information is shared despite a written demand or with the intent to cause harm, might be somewhat duplicative of the prohibitions incorporated into proposed Section 6218.19 (a) and (b). In fact, where Section 6218.18 (a) prohibits an entity from publicly posting a participant's home address who has made a written demand of the entity, Section 6218.19 (b) prohibits the same behavior *and* where any individual, entity, or organization authorized to act on the participant's behalf has made the same written demand. In that way, Section 6218.19 (b) is more expansive than the prohibition at 6218.18 (a). However, only the prohibitions captured in the later sections authorize a corresponding cause of action for an affected person. *The author may wish to consider streamlining the bill's civil enforcement provisions by striking Section 6218.18 and incorporating any unaddressed provisions into Section 6218.19, should there be any.*

Finally, the proposed Sections 6218.19 and 6218.20 consistently reference "designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer." Conversely, proposed Section 6218.18 references "program participant." While the reference to "designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer," is understandable, as that is the population of individuals to whom this bill intends to provide protections, it is potentially broader than the intent of the bill. The bill, in large part, establishes a program for these individuals to seek protection through a program established by the SOS after receiving threats of violence or harassment. It makes sense to in turn authorize an enforcement mechanism when the participant's information is improperly disseminated. While the sharing of anyone's information may be dangerous, particularly when done with intent to incite harm, authorizing a claim for injunctive relief and damages in the context of this bill for *any* person who may qualify as a "designated immigration support services provider" regardless of whether or not they have applied to the SOS is much broader than the scope of the underlying program. *The author may wish to consider amending Sections 6218.18, 6218.19, and 6218.20 to replace references to*

“designated immigration support services provider, employee, or volunteer” with “program participant.” This change would also mirror the existing language in the SAH statute.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: This bill is sponsored by the Women’s Foundation of California – Solis Policy Institute and the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA). It enjoys support from a coalition of immigrants’ rights advocates, legal services organizations, civil rights advocates, labor unions, and nonprofit organizations. In support of the measure CHIRLA submits:

Immigrant support providers, whether working in legal assistance, advocacy, education or community support, are operating under heightened risk in the current political climate. Many have experienced harassment, threats, doxxing, and targeted intimidation due to their work. These incidents have escalated significantly in recent years and are likely to continue given the current climate surrounding immigration policy. Such threats jeopardize the safety of advocates and staff and disrupt the vital services they provide to immigrant communities. Advocates and staff should not have to fear that sensitive personal information, such as their home addresses, can be weaponized against them by anti-immigrant vigilantes.

Currently, the law does not offer these individuals the same confidentiality protection that exists for other groups under the Safe at Home Program, leaving them at risk of danger. AB 2624 addresses this gap by allowing those serving immigrant populations to access the critical privacy safeguards, helping them work without fear for their safety. The Safe at Home Program has a long history of protecting people in vulnerable situations. Originally designed for survivors of domestic violence, it has been expanded over the years to include victims of stalking, reproductive health workers, and gender-affirming health care providers. AB 2624 extends these protections to the immigration services sector, ensuring that personal information remains confidential and that threats of harassment can be legally addressed under existing civil and criminal frameworks

The expansion of these protections strengthens the broader support ecosystem, preserving the integrity and continuity of services offered by immigrant support organizations. By shielding staff and volunteers from exposure to online harassment and physical threats, AB 2624 allows organizations to continue providing legal guidance, advocacy, and community resources safely and effectively. Protecting those who serve immigrants ultimately helps immigrant communities live with dignity and access the support they need in California.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) (co-sponsor)
 Women's Foundation of California, Dr. Beatriz Maria Solis Policy Institute (SPI) (co-sponsor)
 Access Reproductive Justice
 Asian Americans Advancing Justice-southern California
 CAIR California
 California Association of Nonprofits
 California Domestic Workers Coalition
 California Initiative for Technology & Democracy, a Project of California Common CAUSE
 CFT – a Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
 Courage California

Equal Rights Advocates
Grace Institute - End Child Poverty in CA
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Power California Action
San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Todec Legal Center
Unidosus
Vision Y Compromiso (UNREG)

Opposition

None on file

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