May 18, 2020

The Honorable Phil Ting  The Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee Chair, Assembly Budget Committee Sub. 1
State Capitol, Room 6026 State Capitol, Room 5155

RE: $200,000 to Support Outreach to Immigrant Community in San Jose Regarding COVID-19 Testing

Dear Chairs Ting and Arambula:

I am writing to request a one-time appropriation of $200,000 to fund outreach to the immigrant community in East San Jose, which are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, to inform and promote testing for COVID-19.

Santa Clara County is the State’s first epicenter in the pandemic, and according to an assessment recently of the County’s death records by the Bay Area News Group, East San Jose has been hit the hardest. The zip codes within East San Jose that have seen the highest death rates compared to other parts of the County are those with high number of low-income people of color. The population is predominantly Latinos and African Americans who, due to job insecurity and other barriers, have not been able to work from home and shelter in place.

According to an assessment of public health data, Latinos in Santa Clara County make up 34 percent of those who have passed away from COVID-19. The victims are also younger when compared to other groups and population. The disproportionate infection and death rates are alarming, and those in East Side San Jose need help. A local nonprofit organization, SOMOS Mayfair, which have been working in the community for many years to ensure families have access to resources, stands ready to partner with San Jose City to do outreach. SOMOS Mayfair is trusted within the community, which is important when working with immigrants and communities of color.

It is necessary that those who are most impacted by this pandemic have information on testing to protect themselves and their loved ones. Better testing in areas with a high number of victims
would also help to pinpoint efforts and contain spread. COVID-19 impacted many in East San Jose who historically lack of access to healthcare, and this funding request will go a long way in helping this community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at (916) 319-2025.

Sincerely,

KANSEN CHU
Assemblymember, 25th District

Cc: Members of Assembly Budget Committee Sub. 1
Nicole Vazquez, Deputy Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee