



Hispanas Organized for Political Equality® (HOPE) Policy & Advocacy Initiatives



HOPE (Hispanas Organized for Political Equality®) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to ensuring political and economic parity for Latinas through leadership, advocacy, and education to benefit all communities and the status of women. For over 35 years, HOPE's innovative programming has served more than 65,000 leaders and touched the lives of several thousand more through our advocacy efforts.

About HOPE's Advocacy Efforts

HOPE® advances economic opportunity and civic leadership through data-informed policy solutions that strengthen communities across California and beyond. By engaging with coalition partners and local leaders, HOPE leads efforts that expand access to opportunity, foster inclusion, and create lasting community impact.

Our [Policy Agenda](#) outlines strategic actions across four priority areas: Civic Engagement and Representation, Economic Parity, Educational Access, and Healthcare Access, anchored by data-driven insights to reduce disparities and foster growth across all communities.

We advance these goals by:

- **Shaping State Policy to expand opportunity and access for all communities.**
- **Engaging in the State Budget Process to promote fair and equitable investments that strengthen California's future.**
- **Building Strong Coalitions to elevate shared priorities and drive meaningful change.**

Our Issue Areas



Civic Engagement &
Representation



Economic
Empowerment



Education Access



Health Access

Below is an overview of our recent policy achievements, organized by HOPE's four priority areas and the strategies that guide our work. Each reflects our commitment to advancing fair and inclusive policies, strengthening partnerships, and fostering leadership that drives lasting change in California and beyond.

Civic Engagement and Equitable Representation



2025: SB 702 (Limón) – Advancing Transparency in Statewide Appointments

Signed into Law!

Since 2021, HOPE has partnered with Senator Monique Limón to champion legislation requiring demographic reporting on gubernatorial appointments. After five years of persistent advocacy and collaboration with statewide partners, Governor Gavin Newsom has officially signed SB 702 into law.

This landmark legislation ensures greater transparency and accountability by requiring demographic reporting across all statewide appointing bodies. HOPE is proud to have played a leading role in making this long-standing vision a reality, and we look forward to continuing to advance opportunities for all through data-driven policy change.



2025: SB 707 (Durazo) – Expands and Modernizes Open Meeting and Teleconferencing Requirements under the Ralph M. Brown Act

Signed into Law!

This meaningful legislation proposes a series of changes to the Ralph M. Brown Act that expand public participation and improve access to local government decision-making. This includes providing teleconferencing flexibility for local non-decision-making advisory bodies and improving language access by requiring interpretation services and multilingual agenda distribution. HOPE was proud to be part of the coalition of advocates, state and county representatives, and local governments in support of this effort.

Economic Empowerment



2025: SB 642 (Limón): Strengthening the California Equal Pay Act

Signed into Law!

HOPE was proud to co-sponsor this legislation, which updates the definition of wages in the Equal Pay Act to include compensation practices like stocks and benefits, allows workers to recover up to six years of lost pay, updates outdated gender-binary language, and places reasonable limits on excessively broad pay ranges in job postings. These reforms reaffirm California's leadership in promoting pay transparency, closing wage gaps, and empowering workers with the protection they deserve.

[Read more about HOPE's work on this Bill in De Los - LA Times](#)



2025: Led efforts to secure \$7.5 million in one-time funding for the Social Entrepreneurs for Economic Development (SEED) Initiative in the 2025–2026 state budget, protecting and expanding investments for immigrant entrepreneurs.

During HOPE's annual advocacy day in Sacramento, we were proud to partner with Inclusive Action for the City and other advocacy organizations to elevate the need for reinstatement of funding for the SEED Initiative, which provides microgrants, entrepreneurship training, and coaching to immigrant entrepreneurs.



2025: Championed the preservation of safety-net and child care programs in the 2025-26 California State Budget.

HOPE was proud to advocate for investments in childcare programs that serve as a lifeline for working families. This includes the \$70 million investment in the final 2025-2026 budget for a rate increase to all subsidized childcare and preschool providers. This also included advocacy for the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) Expansion and investments in CalWorks for working families at risk of losing benefits.

Expanding Education Access



2025: Advanced a \$20 million investment in Emergency Financial Aid for Undocumented Students in the 2025–2026 California State Budget.

HOPE was proud to join the coalition of student and education advocates to secure a \$20 million one-time Proposition 98 investment in the California state budget, directed to community colleges for flexible emergency financial aid to students. The investment also includes \$5.1 million in one-time Proposition 98 funds to CCC for Financial Aid Community Support.



2024: AB 1780 (Ting): Banning Legacy Admission Preference at Private Colleges

Signed into Law!

HOPE co-sponsored AB 1780 (Ting), which bans the preferential admission of students with connections to donors and alumni at private colleges. AB 1780 was subsequently signed into law that year.

[Discover how HOPE was highlighted in the San Francisco Chronicle](#)



2023: AB 368 (Holden): Dual Enrollment Statewide Reporting
Signed into Law!

In 2023, HOPE co-sponsored AB 368 (Holden, 2023), which requires the Community College Chancellor's Office to report to the Legislature on statewide dual enrollment participation, disaggregated by gender and ethnicity. AB 368 was signed into law that same year.



2022: AB 1746 (Medina, McCarty, & Leyva): The Cal Grant Reform Act

Signed into Law!

At our 2022 policy conference, HOPE featured Assembly Bill 1746 (Medina, McCarty, & Leyva) in our advocacy agenda, which laid the groundwork for the Cal Grant Reform Act. That year, over 400 attendees participated in legislative visits to demonstrate the importance of Cal Grant reform for low-income students. These efforts helped build the momentum that ultimately secured the bill's inclusion in the California State Budget for that fiscal year.

Health Care Access



2025: Supported AB 55 (Bonta): Expanding Access to Alternative Birthing Centers

Signed into Law!

HOPE was proud to support AB 55, which streamlines burdensome licensure requirements for California's birth centers amid the troubling national trend of closures of maternity wards and other birth centers.



2025: Protected Access to Essential Health Care for All and advocated for expanded coverage.

HOPE was proud to support SB 81 (Arreguin, 2025), which ensures safe access to health facilities against illegal immigration enforcement. This bill was signed into law this year. We also centered health care access within our annual policy conference, calling for continuous Medi-Cal coverage and removing burdensome renewal requirements for children under 3. HOPE also called out against the establishment of Medi-Cal premiums for undocumented Californians in our response to the final 2025-2026 California budget.



2024: Featured AB 3161 (Bonta, 2024) and AB 2319 (Wilson, Weber, 2024) at our Latina Action Day Conference

Both bills which were subsequently signed into law!

AB 3161 requires hospitals to provide the Department of Public Health with sociodemographic data when reporting adverse health outcomes, and mandates updates to safety plans to include anonymous reporting options and processes for addressing racism and discrimination. AB 2319 strengthens the California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act (SB 464) to ensure successful implementation and address implicit bias in healthcare providers.