



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

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Executive Director

May 3, 2013

Honorable Ronald S. Calderon
Senator, 30th District
State Capitol, Room 5066
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Calderon:

On April 25, 2013, the Board of Equalization (BOE) unanimously voted to support your Senate Concurrent Resolution 12, which is set for hearing in the Senate Governance and Finance Committee on Wednesday, May 15, 2013. This resolution encourages increased coordination and outreach among state agencies, departments, and commissions and calls on agencies to encourage their employees to volunteer for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. SCR 12 also calls for state agencies, departments and commissions to partner with public or private outreach campaigns and the Internal Revenue Service to better inform Californians about the availability of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and VITA programs. SCR 12 urges that key information about the EITC and the VITA programs be included in state publications and Internet Web sites.

Tax Program Helps Hundreds of Thousands. As you know, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) provides tax relief and income assistance to seniors and low-income working families who earn less than \$50,270 a year. EITC helps approximately 285,000 low-income families. However, thousands of families fail to apply for the EITC. The VITA program matches volunteers with potential filers to assist EITC-eligible persons to file their tax returns and receive the credit. In these harsh economic times, receiving the credit would make a significant financial difference for those who qualify.

The BOE Sponsors Workshops. The BOE is proud to actively participate in the VITA program by sponsoring workshops in unique locations for EITC-eligible households. Dozens of BOE employees volunteer their time to assist those who fall through the cracks or cannot afford professional services. The BOE volunteers find the service to be rewarding. Last year, the BOE sponsored 16 VITA workshops and served over 2,700 participants. The synergy your resolution, SCR 12, seeks to foster among governmental agencies expands on the solid foundation established at the BOE so that more California residents will be better informed about the availability of the EITC and VITA programs.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this bill, please contact our Legislative Counsel, Michele Pielsticker, at (916) 322-2376.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Bridges
Executive Director

CB:ls

cc: The Honorable Lois Wolk
The Honorable Stephen Knight
The Honorable Jim Beall
The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
The Honorable Bill Emmerson
The Honorable Ed Hernandez
The Honorable Carol Liu
Ms. Gayle Miller, Consultant, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
Mr. Colin Grinnell, Consultant, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
Mr. Scott Chavez, Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy