

Rigoberto Hernandez Testimony:

“Hello, my name is Rigoberto Hernandez and I am speaking today on behalf of American GI Forum Education Foundation. We are an organization that represents veterans across the state-- specifically veterans who speak Spanish and Mixteco.

The populations we serve, low income, non-English speaking residents. are the very ones that Commissioner Lara is supposedly trying to help by altering the way that affinity group discounts programs are allowed to operate in California

But we feel very strongly that these proposed regulations will only hurt our community by making it more difficult to understand who can access these affinity group discounts. Many of our residents speak Mixteco; this community is hard to reach and has mixed feelings about trusting government institutions. These high-level regulations will just further this divide and make it impossible for some to realize they qualify for any insurance discounts.

We urge the committee to reconsider these regulations; we should work together to determine a better path forward instead of passing regulations that will have negative long-term impacts on those we work with in Santa Maria.”