



COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT RIGHTS OF LOS ANGELES

February 22, 2016
Diana Dooley, Chair
Covered California Board

Peter Lee
Executive Director, Covered California

Covered California
1601 Exposition Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95815
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Covered California's 1332 Waiver Forum – Allow Undocumented Californians and DACA Recipients to Purchase a Health Plan through Covered California

Dear Ms. Dooley and Mr. Lee,

On behalf of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), a regional organization that works to advance the rights of immigrants and refugees in Los Angeles County and beyond, **I write to urge Covered California to seek a 1332 waiver that allows undocumented people and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients to purchase a health plan through Covered California, with their own money.**

Current policy specifically excludes undocumented people and DACA recipients from purchasing their own health insurance through Covered California due to their immigration status.¹ It does not reflect our values as a state, or serve the common good, to leave hundreds of thousands of workers, students, and family members without treatment for preventable ailments. Allowing undocumented people and DACA recipients to access Covered California ensures everyone has the opportunity to view and choose from a wide range of health care plans.

Currently there is legislation moving in Sacramento that would make our healthcare system more inclusive. One of the provisions in SB 10 (Lara) would direct the state to apply for a under Section 1332 of the Affordable Care Act, to allow all Californians regardless of immigration status to purchase health care coverage through Covered California with their own money. While this proposal does not include subsidies, it is a significant step forward as it removes an unjust barrier to health coverage and would make California's implementation of the ACA more inclusive.

Covered California can set a powerful model for the nation by being the first statewide exchange open to all residents regardless of immigration status. For all the aforementioned, CHIRLA strongly supports the implementation of the 1332 waiver and respectfully urges you to also support it. If you have any questions, contact Jacqueline Mejia at jmejia@chirla.org

Sincerely,

Joseph Villela
Director of Policy & Advocacy

Board of Directors

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Vice President Education &
Workforce Development
LA Area Chamber of
Commerce

* Organizations have been
listed for identification
purposes only.

¹ In 2010 Congress passed the Affordable Care Act that excluded undocumented immigrants from participation in state Exchanges and the Medicaid expansion. Existing rules excluded the undocumented from Medi-Cal were maintained. In August of 2012, President Obama's

