



**CALIFORNIA  
HOSPITAL  
ASSOCIATION**

*Providing Leadership in  
Health Policy and Advocacy*

March 12, 2019

The Honorable Richard Pan, MD  
Chair, Senate Health Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: SB 29 (Durazo) – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Pan:

The California Hospital Association (CHA) — representing more than 400 hospital and health system members and 97 percent of patient beds in the state — is writing today in support of SB 29 (Durazo). SB 29 would expand full-scope Medi-Cal to all income-eligible adults, regardless of immigration status.

A recent University of California, Berkeley Labor Center report found that expanding Medi-Cal to all low-income adults, regardless of immigration status, would extend eligibility to approximately 1.15 million undocumented adults in 2020.<sup>1</sup> Key report findings reveal:

- Expanding Medi-Cal to low-income undocumented adults would close one of the biggest remaining coverage gaps in the state’s health care system, reducing the state’s uninsured population by as much as one-quarter.
- Research has shown the value of health insurance for well-being, access to care, financial security, and worker productivity.
- Under a scenario in which all restricted-scope enrollees are automatically transitioned to full-scope Medi-Cal coverage and additional eligible individuals newly enroll, approximately 1.05 million undocumented adults are predicted to enroll. Of these, an estimated 104,000 would be young adults age 19-25 and 25,000 would be seniors age 65 and over.
- Proposed changes to federal immigration rules threaten to have a chilling effect on enrollment in public programs, even among those not directly affected by the proposed changes. If the proposed “public charge” rule is finalized and the disenrollment rate

---

<sup>1</sup> Lucia, Laurel. Towards Universal Health Coverage: Expanding Medi-Cal to Low-Income Undocumented Adults. Center for Labor Research and Education, University of California, Berkeley. February 2019. <http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/medi-cal-undocumented-adults>

---

among undocumented adults is relatively high (35 percent), the expansion could extend full Medi-Cal benefits to approximately 680,000 undocumented adults in 2020.

For these reasons, CHA respectfully asks for your "AYE" vote on SB 29.

Sincerely,



Barbara Glaser  
Senior Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo  
The Honorable Members of Senate Health Committee  
Kim Chen, Consultant, Senate Health Committee  
Joe Parra, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus