

PROPOSED HEALTH CARE ASKS - COVID 3.0 BILL

THE PROBLEM

We can't protect the country from Coronavirus if we deny health care to a large segment of our communities.

- **A core provision of Congress' plan to provide free COVID-19 testing to "everybody" would leave out millions of low and moderate income immigrants.**
- **As things stand, millions of immigrants -- including people granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and people with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) -- will likely be forced to rely on emergency rooms, community health centers, or new and untested mechanisms for testing and treatment.**
 - Although there is funding outside of Medicaid to reimburse providers for testing of uninsured people, the Administration's ability to immediately stand up new systems to deliver services efficiently is untested, as is the amount of money needed to do that.
 - In addition to unnecessarily and dangerously filling up waiting rooms, this solution depends on sufficient funds and this Administration's unproven interest and ability to quickly and efficiently distribute the money and supplies to these providers.
- **Those left out of the proposed Medicaid state option for the uninsured include some green card holders and many other people who are lawfully residing in the US.**
 - Federal Medicaid is available only to a certain subset of immigrants who have had a "qualified" immigration status for five years, "humanitarian" immigrants, military/veterans and their families, ([eligibility details here](#)) and in some states, lawfully residing children and/or pregnant women ([state maps available here](#)).
 - Many lawfully residing immigrants -- including people granted DACA, most lawful permanent residents during their first five years in that status, survivors of crime granted U visas, people from certain Pacific Island nations, and people with TPS--along with those without status, are ineligible for federal Medicaid.
- **There is no justification for leaving so many people out of testing, treatment, or care for the virus. Besides humanitarian concerns, doing so will severely undermine efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 throughout the nation.**

THE SOLUTION

To safeguard the nation's health, safety and trust, Congress must make health care screening, diagnosis and treatment available and affordable to everyone who lives in the U.S., and ensure that the Administration takes swift action so that immigrants and their family members are not afraid to seek care.

- **Everyone should have access to health care regardless of their immigration status or ability to pay**
 - Access to services should not be delayed due to any application process
 - Services should not require disclosure of immigration status
 - Services should be affordable and free of out of pocket costs or surprise bills

- **Health care services should be comprehensive and should include:**
 - Screening and diagnosis (including non-COVID-19 testing done when a person presents as needed in appropriate medical protocols)
 - Treatment (for any condition that is identified via testing i.e. if someone who is screened has pneumonia—their treatment should be covered)
 - If health care needs are identified during the emergency period, treatment of the condition should be continued after the period

- **Immigrants and their family members should not fear that they will be penalized or placed at risk for seeking health care and other needed services, and they need to be able to access information about their health care options.**
 - Halt the DHS and DOS public charge rules, and implementing manuals and forms
 - Ensure that people seeking health care and other needed services for their families are not deterred based on fear of immigration enforcement, by enacting the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act
 - Ensure that language access is not a barrier to learning about the availability of, or obtaining health care by providing adequate resources to meet the language access needs of immigrants and their families, communities and businesses and complying with existing civil rights laws and regulations