



February 6, 2026

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
 Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
 1021 O Street, Suite 8230
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator John Laird
 Chair, Senate Budget Committee
 1021 O Street, Suite 8720
 Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

RE: California Must Act Now to Protect Full-Scope Medi-Cal for H.R. 1 Populations

Dear Chairs Gabriel and Laird,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge you reject Governor Newsom’s proposal to strip Medi-Cal coverage from 200,000 immigrants who are survivors of domestic violence, trafficking and other traumas.¹ Californians understand these populations are some of our most vulnerable which is why state leaders have consistently acted to ensure they can receive care. Without access to these benefits, individuals and families will die. Contrary to the Administration’s claims, HR 1 does not require this change and current California law explicitly prevents it. *We urge you to act now to protect these vulnerable populations and immigrants more broadly from further, harmful Medi-Cal cuts.*

H.R. 1 Populations have always been able to access coverage both nationally and in California: Prior to 1996, lawfully present immigrants generally had full Medicaid eligibility equal to native-born citizens. In 1996, the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) instituted a waiting period for green card holders, often referred to as the “5-year bar”. Some immigrants, including refugees and asylees, are exempt from the 5-year bar.

Since 1996, California has ensured that lawfully present immigrants in California here less than five-years and individuals who are permanently residing in the U.S. under color of law (PRUCOL), continued to have access to full-scope Medi-Cal using state funding to replace what had previously been federal funding for these individuals. In 2014, California expanded state-

only coverage to ACA expansion adults.² California also passed a law in 2006, to ensure immigrant survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence, and other serious crimes may receive state and local benefits under the same rules that apply to refugees.³

These laws remain on the books today and cover all immigrants specified in Section 1641(b) of Title 8 of the United States Code.

Trump's H.R. 1 Changes are Harmful and Cruel: In July 2025, Congress passed HR 1, which removes certain immigrants from 42 U.S.C. § 1396b(v)(1), ending the federal funding that states receive for enrolling these individuals in Medicaid. This includes:

- Individuals resettled in California as refugees
- Individuals granted asylum or withholding of removal
- Individuals paroled into the US (after completing the five-year bar)
- Survivors of domestic violence with a pending or approved VAWA application (after completing the five-year bar)
- Survivors of trafficking with a pending or approved T visa or continued presence
- Afghan or Iraqi Special Immigrant Visa holders
- Certain Native Americans who are not USCs or LPRs

Without access to these benefits, refugees who often need ongoing health care for injuries, nutritional deficiencies, PTSD, or exposure to infectious disease will be torn away from their doctors, therapists, and medications. Survivors of domestic violence or trafficking may be forced to remain in abusive situations longer than they otherwise would because leaving will mean they lose food or medical support for themselves and their children.

California Should Not Follow in Trump's Path: Despite being framed as a new federal policy, H.R. 1 did not alter the definition of “qualified” immigrant in Section 1641(b) of Title 8 of the United States Code, which includes these immigrants. This means that **state law requires California to provide full-scope Medi-Cal coverage. This includes non-emergency dental and without imposing premiums**, if these individuals are beyond or exempt from the 5-year bar.

California State Leaders Must Reject Additional Cuts and Support Strong, Revenue Solutions to Keep our Communities Whole: Access to health care is necessary for everyone to be healthy and thrive. For the second year in a row, the Governor is proposing to balance the budget off the backs of vulnerable communities without proposing any new significant investments to backfill the impact of these cuts, which combined with H.R. 1, are expected to result in a loss of physical, behavioral and dental coverage for 500,000 Californians in 2026-27 alone. The Governor's budget invests \$3 billion in the state's “Rainy Day” fund, even though it's raining for Californians right now. Policymakers have a choice between inaction or championing real investments in our communities. We urge you to act now to support revenues and protect

our state's most vulnerable populations and immigrants more broadly from further, harmful Medi-Cal cuts.

Sincerely,

Organizations:

1. California Pan Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN)
2. AADAP (Asian American Drug Abuse Program)
3. ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
4. AFSCME California
5. Americans for Democratic Action, Southern California
6. Asian American Liberation Network
7. Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement
8. Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative
9. Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)
10. California Alliance for Retired Americans
11. California Alliance of Child and Family Services
12. California Coverage & Health initiatives (CCHI)
13. California Immigrant Policy Center
14. California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
15. California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network
16. California Physicians Alliance
17. California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
18. California School-Based Health Alliance (CSHA)
19. California WIC Association
20. California Women's Law Center
21. Center for Empowering Refugees & Immigrants
22. Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño
23. Children's Cause Orange County

24. Children Now
25. Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, CHIRLA
26. Comité de acción del valle inc
27. Community Health Partnership
28. Courage California
29. Delta Dental of California
30. Dientes Community Dental Care
31. Disability Rights California
32. El Arc de California
33. El sol neighborhood Educational Center
34. Empowering Pacific Islander Communities
35. Ensuring Opportunity Campaign
36. Esperanza Community Housing Corporation
37. Friends Committee on Legislation of California
38. Future Leaders of America
39. Give for a Smile
40. Gold Coast Health Plan
41. Health Linkages aka Children and Family Resource Services
42. Healthy California Now
43. Healthy Contra Costa
44. Imperial Valley Equity and Justice
45. Indivisible Santa Barbara
46. Indivisible Tri-Valley
47. James Morehouse Project
48. Justice in Aging
49. Karen Organization of San Diego
50. Latino Coalition for a Healthy California

51. Latino Health Access
52. Lisa's Family Child Care and Learning
53. Love Your Best Life
54. Madera Coalition for Community Justice
55. Maternal and Child Health Access
56. MECCA
57. Mid-City Community Advocacy Network
58. Mighty Community Advocacy
59. Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)
60. Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition
61. National Health Law Program
62. One Step A La Vez
63. Our Time To Act
64. Pear Suite
65. Public Health Institute
66. Pomona Economic Opportunity Center
67. Praxis Health Empowerment
68. Program for Torture Victims LA
69. Public Counsel
70. Public Health Advocates
71. Rising Communities
72. Sacramento Area Congregations Together (ACT)
73. San Diego Refugee Communities Coalition
74. San Diego Wellness Collaborative
75. Santuario Continental de la Dignidad Migrante
76. Senior and Disability Action
77. South Asian Network

78. Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
79. Survivors of Torture, International
80. The California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network
81. The Central Valley Urban Institute
82. The Children's Partnership
83. The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
84. Transitions Clinic Network
85. United Latino Voices of Contra Costa County
86. Western Center on Law and Poverty
87. Young Invincibles
88. Youth Will

Individuals

89. Akasha Christy, Oakland
90. Alisse Singer, MD San Diego
91. Amanda Farr, San Diego
92. Amy Bellinghausen, MD San Diego
93. Amy Huynh, San Diego
94. Amy Price, Alameda
95. Ana Rosiles, Brawley
96. Andrea Palladino, Sacramento
97. Angela Council, watsonville
98. April Moo, San Diego
99. Ariana Thompson-Lastad, Berkeley
100. Barb Ram, m Sacramento
101. Bouakhay Phongbough, Pinole
102. carmen del Rela, Paso Robles
103. Carolina Goodman, Sherman Oaks
104. Christie Yorty, San Diego
105. Christina Villaseñor, Fillmore
106. Christopher-Camilo Carbajal-Carbajall, Sacramento
107. Cleo Yang, San Francisco
108. Connie Wong, Los Angeles
109. Cynthia Salas, Oxnard
110. Dah Say, San Diego

111. Dave Cone, Berkeley
112. Dr. Corrine McIntosh Sako, Sacramento
113. Elida Kocharian, San Diego
114. Ethan Teran, Parlier
115. Eulalia Mendoza, Oxnard
116. Irene Ly, San Francisco
117. Jamie Brooke, Alameda
118. Jamie Perez, Santa Maria
119. Jan Kuchinsky, Pleasanton
120. Jan Kuchinsky Pleasanton
121. Janine Young, MD Solana Beach
122. Jasmine Mikesell, San Diego
123. Jeremiah Wiebe-Anderson, San Diego
124. Jeremy Cantor, Berkeley
125. Jermaine Brubaker, Crescent City
126. Julia Caplan, Oakland
127. Kathryn Meehan, Richmond
128. Katie Windham, Berkeley
129. Kelly Graziadei, Sacramento
130. Kim Livingston, Berkeley
131. Leah Howitt, San Diego
132. Leeah Painter, Sacramento
133. Leighanne Cabrera, La Mirada
134. Linzey Ledesma, Redlands
135. Loni English, Santa Paula
136. Luke Silverman-Lloyd, MD, MS San Diego
137. Margaret Trimble, Daly City
138. Maria Luisa Munoz, Visalia
139. Marisela Vallejo, Heber
140. Mary Ann Krause, Santa Paula
141. Maya Kumar, La Mesa
142. Melody Schiaffino, San Diego
143. Mia Ogebee, Goleta
144. Michaella Crane, Sacramento
145. Miriam Hernandez, Palmdale
146. Mitchell Duncan, Sacramento
147. Mu Aye, San Diego
148. Nataly Santamaria, Bakersfield
149. Nathaniel Calilung, Goleta
150. Nicole Sun, MD San Diego

151. Papu Togafau, Los Angeles
152. Paw Say, San Diego
153. Princess Cervantes, Loma Linda
154. Prosperity Land , San Diego
155. queena quy, los angeles
156. Rachel Rosekind, El Cerrito
157. ROBIN ROTH, San Francisco
158. Rocio Rodriguez, Santa Rosa
159. Rosa Villanueva, Oxnard
160. Sheree Storm, Santa Cruz
161. Sofia Medina, San Francisco
162. Sophia Xiao, San Diego
163. Sophia Yeung, Anaheim
164. Supriya Misra, Oakland
165. Susan Shaw, Sebastopol
166. Teresita Ramirez, Huntington Park
167. Valeria Garcia, Altadena
168. Vanessa Liu, MD San Diego
169. Zandra Alfaro-Olea, Lompoc