



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 13, 2023

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Latina Institute Celebrates Victory for Expanded Health Care Access for DACA Recipients

On Thursday, April 13, the Biden Administration announced that it will be issuing a proposed rule to lift Affordable Care Act restrictions and expand Medicaid eligibility – in states that have opted to cover lawfully present children and pregnant people without a waiting period – for recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

Since the Obama Administration first took administrative action aimed at limiting the health care access of DACA recipients, the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice has joined partners in demanding that this injustice be rectified. This provision has been a major component of the [Health Equity and Access Under the Law \(HEAL\) for Immigrant Families Act](#) which would remove unnecessary and xenophobic legal barriers to health care coverage for immigrant communities. The National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice co-leads the HEAL Coalition, a coalition of over 350 organizations that support the bill, along with the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum. The HEAL coalition has worked tirelessly to fight for passage of the HEAL Act and to push the Biden Administration to expand access to health care to DACA recipients.

Statement from Lupe M. Rodríguez, Executive Director of [National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice](#)

"We applaud the Biden Administration and Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra for taking steps to ensure DACA recipients will finally be eligible for healthcare coverage under the Affordable Care Act. This is great news for DREAMers who have often delayed or avoided getting the health care they need. Latinos/xs are uninsured at the highest rates in the U.S and we face persistent barriers that deny us the tools to stay healthy. We are proud to stand with NAPAWF, and many other advocates, to ensure that those of us who come here for a better life can have access to our human right to health care and are better able to take care of ourselves and our families"

"This would not have been possible without Senator Cory Booker, Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, and Congresswoman Nanette Barragán for their leadership in fighting for the HEAL Act. And, to Senator Booker and Congressman Joaquin Castro who have [led the fight](#) for Medicaid and ACA eligibility for DACA recipients."

"As we applaud this victory, we will continue to fight to pass all provisions of the [Health Equity and Access Under the Law \(HEAL\) for Immigrant Families Act](#), which would ensure Medicaid and CHIP eligibility for lawfully present immigrants by removing the discriminatory five-year waiting period and extending ACA insurance eligibility to undocumented immigrants. And, we will continue to advocate for Congress to pass a pathway to citizenship that provides DACA recipients and immigrant youth the peace and stability they need to thrive."

"At Latina Institute, we believe that all of us, of every documentation status, should have access to the full range of healthcare options, and we celebrate policies like this that set up individuals and families in our communities to live with health, dignity and justice."

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