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DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

May 24, 2021

RE: DPSFV Supports Senate Bill 56 [Health4All Seniors]

Representatives of the Honorable San Fernando Valley Delegation:

On behalf of the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley (DPSFV), we are pleased to report that our Executive Board voted to support SB 56, which will bring California one step closer to universal coverage by expanding full-scope Medi-Cal to income-eligible seniors ages 65+, regardless of immigration status.

DPSFV was founded in 1978 and is chartered by the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee. Our organization is the coordinating body for a coalition of twenty-one Democratic Clubs located in the six Assembly Districts (38, 39, 43, 45, 46, and 50) which are wholly or partially in the San Fernando Valley.

The DPSFV Political Action Committee met last month to discuss SB 56 and voted to recommend that the DPSFV Executive Board support this vital piece of legislation. The committee noted California is home to roughly 2.3 million undocumented immigrants who make up about 6% of the state population.¹ In 2018, undocumented Californians contributed \$3.7 billion in state and local taxes and over \$40 billion in spending power to our economy.² They are overrepresented in jobs deemed “essential” during the pandemic,³ yet they are excluded from federal stimulus payments, unemployment insurance, and safety net programs for health care and food assistance.

While the state has set up temporary programs for the uninsured to access COVID-related care, these barely scratch the surface of the health crises that plague our immigrant communities—especially elderly individuals whom the virus has preyed upon. Undocumented seniors who have gone years without so much as a check-up may have unknown chronic conditions and need preventive care and treatment for all of their health concerns, not just COVID.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made more visible and exacerbated the magnitude of racial health disparities. These disparities result in deadly outcomes for undocumented Californians who are systematically excluded from our social safety net. We believe California’s health system and Californians in general are healthier and stronger when everyone has the affordable, comprehensive health coverage. SB 56 would remove immigration status as an eligibility to Medi-Cal for low-income seniors whose incomes are below 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL). This means that an undocumented adult in a single-person household would be eligible if their income is \$17,609 or less.⁴

California already provides near-universal coverage for children and young adults, having expanded full-scope Medi-Cal to all low-income children up to the age of 18 and young adults up to the age of 25, regardless of immigration status.

SB 56 continues California’s leadership in improving on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) by expanding comprehensive Medi-Cal coverage to one segment of the largest population within California’s remaining uninsured: undocumented adults. It would start to close the state’s largest coverage gap and move us one step closer to universal coverage. We urge you to support SB 56.

Please note that DPSFV will be tracking this bill as it travels through the Legislature. Your voting record will be noted and may be considered should you ever seek our endorsement. Your office is always welcome to contact DPSFV if you have any questions.

Sincerely and respectfully,



Chair Sean M. Rivas
Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley

cc: Assembly Members Rivas, Friedman, Gabriel, Nazarian, and Bloom
Senators Hertzberg, Portantino, Stern, Allen and Durazo (author)

¹ <https://immigrantdataca.org/indicators/immigration-status/>

² <https://immigrantdataca.org/indicators/economic-contributions/?immig=3>

³ <https://immigrantdataca.org/indicators/industries-and-occupations/>

⁴ <https://www.coveredca.com/pdfs/FPL-chart.pdf>