

# TALKING POINTS: Health4All 2022

- **IT'S ABOUT EQUITY.** Many undocumented Californians are excluded from health care coverage and are dying from treatable conditions. No one should suffer or die due to lack of health care simply because of where they were born.
- **IT'S ABOUT COST-EFFECTIVENESS.** The emergency room is not a substitute for routine medical care. Regular check-ups can prevent painful, expensive chronic conditions before they begin. It makes economic sense to invest in preventive services.
- **IT'S ABOUT ALL CALIFORNIANS.** Health4All is necessary to get California to universal health coverage. Undocumented immigrant adults are the largest group within the remaining uninsured in California.
- **IT'S ABOUT URGENCY.** A long history of discriminatory policy and hateful political rhetoric has resulted in heightened fear and trauma for immigrant communities, who urgently need access to primary care, mental health, and other services that Medi-Cal offers. We won't be able to get out of the Covid-19 pandemic - or any other future public health crisis - unless everyone in our communities has access to the same preventative measures and ability to meet ongoing needs.
- **IT'S ABOUT FAMILIES.** Health4All uplifts California's diverse families, including those with mixed statuses. More than one in six California kids has an undocumented parent. The older family members of these children continue to be systematically excluded from health care. When we keep parents and caregivers healthy, we strengthen and support entire families and communities.
- **IT'S ABOUT LEADERSHIP.** California led the way by passing "Health4All Kids" in 2015 and "Health4All Young Adults" in 2019. This year we will see the implementation of "Health4All Older Adults" age 50 and over. By closing the gap and covering undocumented Californians age 26-49, California will again make history and cement its role as a leader in advancing groundbreaking health care solutions for ALL Californians.
- **IT'S ABOUT A STRONGER, MORE RESILIENT HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.** California is stronger when everyone is covered and healthy. Our health care system works better and is more cost-efficient when we cover as many lives as possible, promote the well-being of all Californians, and create a more equitable system for all.

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## ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- **IT'S ABOUT ECONOMIC JUSTICE.** California has the fifth largest economy in the world, and every day the labor of undocumented immigrants grows the state's formidable GDP. Additionally, undocumented Californians contribute \$3.7 billion in state and local taxes, \$7 billion in federal taxes, and over \$40 billion in spending power to our economy every year. It is an injustice that our undocumented neighbors are excluded from the economic prosperity which they have helped to create.
- **IT'S ABOUT FAIRNESS.** From agriculture and construction to domestic and service work, immigrant workers are heavily represented in industries with a high rate of workplace injury and worker exploitation, as well as a low rate of employer-provided benefits, including health insurance, disability insurance, or any form of retirement. Through their sacrifices, undocumented Californians work to provide others with cheap goods and services, while being excluded from the benefits that support this labor.

## COVID-19

- **IT'S ABOUT OUR COLLECTIVE HEALTH.** The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic makes it clear that our health is deeply interconnected with that of every other Californian. To recover from this crisis and better prepare ourselves for future public health emergencies, we must recognize our shared humanity and care for each other, our neighbors, and those most vulnerable to falling through the gaps of our social safety net. No virus discriminates based on immigration status, and our health care system shouldn't either.
- **IT'S ABOUT REDUCING DISPARITIES.** COVID has not hit us all equally. Immigrant communities in California - especially those with lower incomes - make up a hugely disproportionate share of COVID cases and deaths and face barriers that make it harder to access care during times of social distancing.

IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR **#HEALTH4ALL**