



March 12, 2019

The Honorable Richard Pan
Chair, Senate Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 29 (Durazo) – Full-Scope Medi-Cal for Low-Income Undocumented Adults – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Pan,

As a representative of the 28 million small businesses in America and the 3.5 million in California, Small Business Majority writes today in support of SB 29, which would expand Medi-Cal coverage to undocumented immigrants. We believe that such measures are key strengthening the healthcare system overall, which is vitally important to California small businesses.

Small Business Majority is a national small business organization with multiple offices throughout California, founded and run by small business owners to ensure America's entrepreneurs are a key part of a thriving and inclusive economy. We actively engage small business owners and policymakers in support of public policy solutions, and deliver information and resources to entrepreneurs that promote small business growth and drive a strong, sustainable job-creating economy. A key component of our work involves outreach and education to small business owners on a range of issues, including healthcare, retirement security, access to capital and more.

SB 29 would extend Medi-Cal, which provides healthcare to qualified low-income individuals, to all individuals who would be otherwise eligible if not for their immigration status. Extending this coverage would drastically decrease the number of remaining uninsured in the state, as 1.4 million undocumented Californians are without healthcare coverage (roughly half of the total uninsured). These individuals, many of whom run or work for small businesses, are accessing our healthcare system in an inefficient manner, without any way to pay for their care, which creates instability in the system..

We know from our scientific opinion polling that small businesses strongly support this measure. Indeed, we just released [new opinion polling](#) that reveals nearly 6 in 10 California small business owners (59%) agree undocumented immigrants should be allowed to access public healthcare insurance options, as giving them access to coverage will ensure that their care is covered and in turn drive down healthcare expenses for everyone else.

Additionally, undocumented adults are significant contributors to California's economy, comprising 10% of the state's workforce. According to a 2015 Fiscal Policy Institute analysis of American Community Survey data, almost 1 in 5 American businesses are owned by foreign-born individuals. Immigrant ownership of Main Street small businesses is even greater in California's metro areas—[64% of Los Angeles Main Street business owners](#) are immigrants. Many of these business owners are undocumented, and many more undocumented entrepreneurs are not captured by these statistics. It's critical that these entrepreneurs have access to health coverage, regardless on their immigration status.

California must pursue policies that expand access to affordable healthcare for its job creators. We urge you to support SB 29 to strengthen our state's healthcare system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Herbert".

Mark Herbert, California Director