



May 10, 2018

Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula
P.O. Box 942840
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: Legislation pending on expanding Medical to undocumented immigrants (AB 2965)

Dear Assemblymember Arambula,

As a representative of the 28 million small businesses in America and the more than 3.5 million in California, Small Business Majority writes today in support of AB 2965, which would expand MediCal coverage to undocumented immigrants. We believe that such measures are key to increasing healthcare access and 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 focus on solving the biggest problems facing small businesses today. We actively engage small business owners and policymakers in support of solutions that promote small business growth and drive a strong economy. A key component of our work involves outreach and education to small business owners on a range of small business issues, including healthcare, retirement security, access to capital and more.

AB 2965 would extend MediCal, 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 roughly 1.8 million undocumented Californians are without healthcare coverage (more than half of the total uninsured). These people, 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, thereby adding to the instability of the system. When people access healthcare without insurance, it increases our uncompensated care costs, which in turn increases healthcare costs for everyone else.

It's critical that California pursue policies that enable small business owners to have access to affordable, quality healthcare options. We support any legislation that will help level the playing field for small businesses and strengthen our state's healthcare system, and AB 2965 will do just that.

Sincerely,

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

Mark Herbert, California Director
Small Business Majority