



April 30, 2019

Assemblymember Rob Bonta
Assemblymember David Chiu
Assemblymember Miguel Santiago
State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: Legislation pending on expanding Medical to undocumented immigrants (AB 4)

Dear Assemblymembers Bonta, Chiu and Santiago:

As a representative of the 28 million small businesses in America and the more than 3.9 million in California, Small Business Majority writes today in support of AB 4, 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 advocacy 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 key small business issues, including healthcare, retirement security, access to capital and more.

AB 4 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 1.4 million undocumented Californians are without healthcare coverage (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 raises healthcare costs for everyone else.

Recent opinion polling we conducted found that this proposal receives broad support from small business owners—indeed, nearly 6 in 10 California entrepreneurs (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.

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 4 will do just that.

Sincerely,

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

Mark Herbert, California Director
Small Business Majority