



## Immigration

### Ending the exclusion of undocumented immigrants from MediCal [SB-29 \(Durazo\)](#) and [AB-4 \(Bonta and Chiu\)](#)

#### Background

Across the country, we have seen attacks on immigrant justice at the federal and state level. Yet some states have been taking important steps to protect immigrants. Currently, undocumented immigrants older than 18 in California do not have full access to Medi-Cal, a program which provides free or low-cost health insurance to low-income people. However, SB-29 and AB-4 would extend coverage to undocumented immigrants over age 18.

#### Legislative Summary

SB-29 and AB-4 would allow undocumented immigrants who would be eligible if not for their immigration status to receive Medi-Cal. As written, the bills apply to all undocumented immigrants, Governor Newsom's budget has allocated only enough funding to cover individuals up to age 26. As such, the bills' scope will likely be narrowed throughout the markup process. RAC-CA will advocate for passage of a strong bill that provides health care for as many immigrants as possible – at the very least up to age 40 – in order to cover older DREAMers who might lose coverage if their DACA status is rescinded.

#### Jewish Values

Welcoming the immigrant is a core part of Jewish tradition. In at least 36 different ways, the Torah instructs us to love the stranger, or immigrant. The Torah states, "when a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong them. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19:33-3). We also recall our families' own stories of migration; many of our ancestors came to North America seeking safety and freedom from persecution. The Torah teaches, "There shall be one law for the citizen and for the immigrant who dwells among you" (Exodus 12:49). We have an obligation to



advocate for a state that welcomes immigrants and provides access to vital medical treatment to all residents.