

New York Doctors Coalition

<http://www.nydocs.org>

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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF A. 8054A

April 30, 2018

Dear Assembly Health Committee,

We, the undersigned six organizations working together in the New York Doctors coalition, representing over 5,000 physicians and medical students in New York, along with our public health allies, share a dedication to improving the health of all New Yorkers. Our organizations strongly support A. 8054A, which would expand the Child Health Plus program to young adults ages 19 to 29 who are not currently eligible for other types of coverage. This issue affects our patients, our colleagues, and our families.

This bill provides young adult immigrants with access to health insurance coverage that is *equivalent* to the coverage offered to their citizen or lawfully present counterparts who are eligible for the Essential Plan or through Qualified Health Plans offered through the New York State of Health Marketplace. The bill extends coverage through New York's Child Health Plus program to young adult immigrants ages 19 to 29, averting the health insurance cliff many of them currently face when they turn 19 after years of state investment in their health.

Many immigrant New Yorkers have not benefited from new coverage options or public coverage through the New York State of Health Marketplace because of exclusions based on their immigration status. People without coverage are more likely to delay seeking preventive care for serious and chronic health conditions, avoid seeking care for fear of costs, and are at higher risk of incurring medical debt or bankruptcy.

Research demonstrates that gaps in coverage lead to cost inefficiencies and waste. Individuals and families without access to coverage are more likely to be sicker and die sooner. Hospitals are asked to provide care for which they may not be reimbursed and which patients may not be able to afford on their own. While many immigrants have been able to take advantage of health insurance through the Affordable Care Act, certain individuals have been excluded from federal programs. Many of these individuals are young adults who are raising families, working in or starting New York State businesses, and contributing positively in myriad ways to their communities.

Facilitating coverage is an important step in integrating immigrant families into communities and strengthening their ability to work, be productive, and contribute to the state and local economy. Extending affordable coverage also makes the health care system work better for all New Yorkers. Ensuring that everyone has access to quality, affordable care will make it easier for the state to control costs and improve health outcomes for all. In the face of a federal administration hostile to the well-being of immigrant communities, New York has the opportunity to further cement its leadership among

other states by making a firm commitment to supporting young adults' ability to stay healthy for years to come.

Organizations within the New York Doctors coalition therefore firmly support these bills in support of our patients, colleagues, and families.

For more information, please contact William Jordan, MD, MPH at info@nydocs.org, or any of the individual organizations listed below.

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