

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 12, 2016

The Honorable Jacob Lew  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable Sylvia Burwell  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Lew and Secretary Burwell:

We write to you in strong support of California's request for an Innovation Waiver under Section 1332 of the Affordable Care Act, to allow undocumented Californians to purchase unsubsidized health insurance with their own money through California's health benefits exchange, Covered California.

Implementation of federal health care reform in California has been a huge success, enrolling millions of patients in quality health plans through the state exchange, and expanding Medi-Cal, the state's Medicaid program, to provide health care coverage to millions more low-income Californians.

In fact, California has fully committed to the vision of the Affordable Care Act to ensure that everyone has access to quality, affordable health care. The state recently expanded Medi-Cal coverage to include all children who meet the income eligibility threshold, regardless of immigration status.

California's request for a State Innovation Waiver will further this commitment, expanding access to coverage by allowing undocumented immigrants to buy insurance through the state exchange. According to analysis by Covered California, this waiver could extend health coverage to an estimated 17,000 people, which would significantly reduce the remaining uninsured population in California.

This waiver request was initiated by legislation (Senate Bill 10 - Lara) that was approved by a bi-partisan, two-thirds majority in both houses of the state Legislature, and signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown.

This request is consistent with the requirements stipulated for Section 1332 Innovation Waivers - it will expand access to comprehensive, affordable health care and it will not impact the federal budget deficit. Plans sold under this program will be identical in every way to plans currently sold through the exchange, and will not be subsidized with federal premium assistance or cost sharing subsidies.

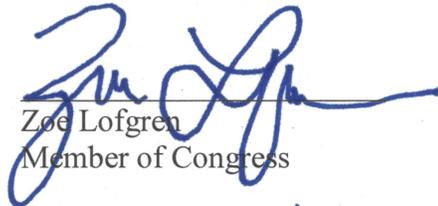
Our entire community benefits when we ensure that everyone in California has access to comprehensive health coverage benefits. Billions of dollars are spent every year on uncompensated care, providing health care services to the uninsured. Enrolling people in comprehensive coverage is not only a more humanitarian approach, it's also more cost effective to ensure people have access to preventive care and wellness programs and receive treatment before their condition becomes more damaging and more costly.

For all these reasons, we strongly urge you to approve this waiver request.

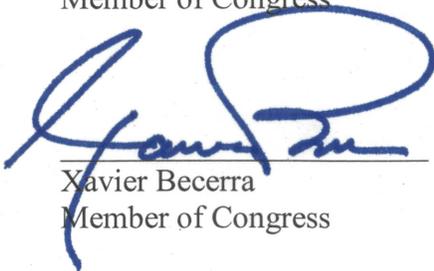
Sincerely,



Nancy Pelosi  
Member of Congress



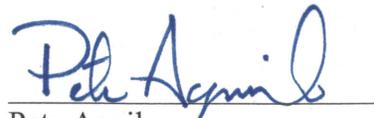
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Xavier Becerra  
Member of Congress



Mike Honda  
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress



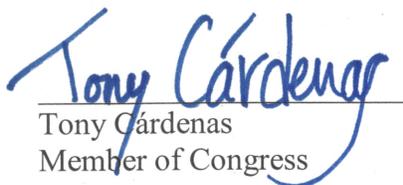
Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



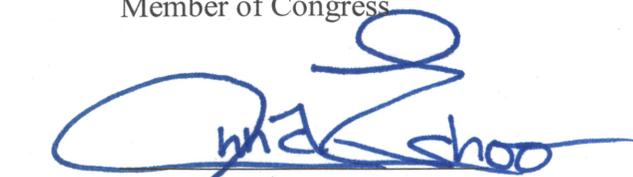
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress

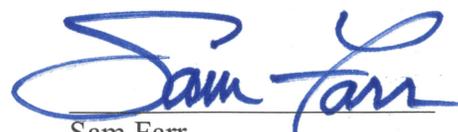
  
Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

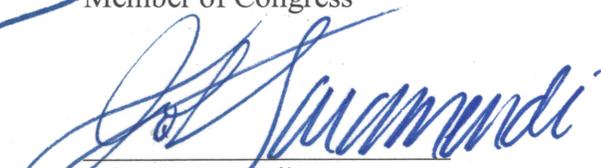
  
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

  
Susan Davis  
Member of Congress

  
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

  
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

  
Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

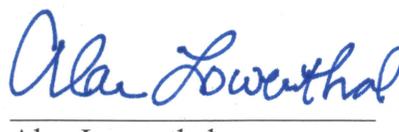
  
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

  
Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress

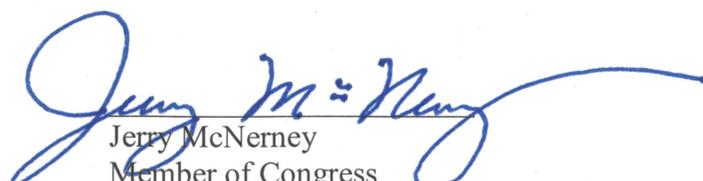
  
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

  
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

  
Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress

  
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

  
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

  
Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

  
Grace Napolitano  
Member of Congress

  
Scott Peters  
Member of Congress

*Lucille Roybal-Allard*

Lucille Roybal-Allard  
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*Raul Ruiz*  
Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
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*Linda T. Sanchez*  
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*Adam B. Schiff*  
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*Brad Sherman*  
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*Jackie Speier*  
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*Eric Swalwell*  
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*Mark Takano*  
Mark Takano  
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*Mike Thompson*  
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

*Norma Torres*  
Norma Torres  
Member of Congress

*Juan Vargas*  
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

*Maxine Waters*  
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

