



**LOS
ANGELES
LGBT
CENTER**

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February 25, 2016
Diana Dooley, Chair
Covered California Board

Peter Lee
Executive Director, Covered California

Covered California
1601 Exposition Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95815

Re: Covered California's 1332 Waiver Forum – Allow Undocumented Californians and DACA Recipients to Purchase a Health Plan through Covered California

Dear Ms. Dooley and Mr. Lee,

I am writing on behalf of the Los Angeles LGBT Center (Center) to urge Covered California to seek a 1332 Waiver that allows undocumented people and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients to purchase a health plan through Covered California, with their own money.

The Center has been providing services and advocating on behalf of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community since 1969 and today is the largest LGBT organization in the world, providing health and human services as well as community support to more than 504,000 client visits annually. The organization's mission is to build a world where LGBT people thrive as healthy, equal and complete members of society. In service of this mission, The Center provides high quality, culturally-competent healthcare at the only Federally Qualified Health Center in California specifically for LGBT people. In partnership with the state and other LGBT organizations, we have enrolled thousands of community members in Covered California health plans.

Current policy specifically excludes undocumented people and DACA recipients from purchasing their own health insurance through Covered California due to their immigration status. It does not reflect our values as a state, or serve the common good, to leave hundreds of thousands of workers, students, and family members without treatment for preventable ailments. Allowing undocumented people and DACA recipients to access Covered California ensures everyone has the opportunity to view and choose from a wider range of health care plans.

Currently there is legislation moving in Sacramento that would make our healthcare system more inclusive. One of the provisions in SB 10 (Lara) would direct the state to apply for a waiver under Section 1332 of the Affordable Care Act, to allow all Californians regardless of immigration status to purchase health care coverage through Covered California with their own money. While this proposal does not include subsidies, it is a significant step forward as it removes an unjust barrier to health coverage and would make California's implementation of the ACA more inclusive.

Covered California can set a powerful model for the nation by being the first statewide exchange open to all residents regardless of immigration status. We urge Covered California to support the above mentioned proposal by seeking the 1332 Waiver. Let's ensure that we fulfill the vision of the Affordable Care Act by expanding opportunities for health coverage for all who call California home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DG' or similar initials, with a stylized flourish.

Dave Garcia

Director of Policy and Community Building

Los Angeles LGBT Center