

September 13, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer,

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the harmful consequences of policies that deny people access to health care and other basic services and supports based on immigration status. We write to support legislation to protect the nation's health and prosperity by eliminating long-standing barriers that have denied people who are lawfully present in the U.S. and their families the basics we all need to thrive. We call on Congress to support and quickly enact the Lifting Immigrant Families Through Benefits Access Restoration (LIFT the BAR) Act upon its introduction.

The LIFT the BAR Act restores access to public programs like Medicaid, CHIP, and SNAP, by removing the five-year bar and other barriers that deny critical care and aid to people who are lawfully present and their families. This includes people who hold "green cards," Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, crime victims, child maltreatment victims and orphans who hold Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), and other noncitizens residing lawfully in the United States.

The legislation also ensures that sponsored immigrants have access to services based on the income and resources that are actually available to them. And it ensures that people across all states have similar access to the basic protections extended by federal safety net programs, while restoring state and local flexibility to provide benefits to immigrants with their own funds.

Research has shown that years of policies that target people because of their immigration status have deterred immigrant families, which include millions of U.S. citizen children, from health care and other basics. While the Trump Administration's disastrous public charge policy was the latest example, the five-year eligibility bar imposed by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) has harmed more families since its enactment, a quarter-century ago. By denying health care and aid to otherwise-eligible people who are lawfully present, the five-year bar sets a dangerous precedent that makes the social safety net inaccessible to millions of families of color.

As the nation reckons with a legacy of racial injustice, any reform effort that fails to address the inequities facing immigrants is doomed to fail. Nearly 1 in 10 Black people in America are immigrants, and immigrants account for 24% of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, 33% of Latinos, and 66% of Asian Americans. Take into account their spouses and children, and it's easy to see that there is no justice for families of color until there is justice for immigrant families.

The injustice of PRWORA's five-year bar is compounded by the fact that it denies critical aid to people who are lawfully present including those who have served as essential workers during the pandemic. Many of the health care workers, child care workers, and educators who have kept our communities going have struggled to keep their own families afloat because the five-year bar denies them these basics.

President Biden took a major step forward in ending the harmful public charge policy, but we must work proactively towards addressing a much longer standing injustice by ending the five-year bar. By doing so, Congress will be helping millions of immigrants who are lawfully present and their families to get the quality healthcare, nutritious food, safe homes, and economic security every family needs to thrive.

A quarter-century is more than long enough to wait. We stand ready to partner with you to quickly move this legislation forward this year.

Sincerely, the undersigned

**National**

1,000 Days

Academic Pediatric Association

African Communities Together

AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families

Alianza Americas

Alianza Nacional de Campesinas

Alliance for Immigrant Survivors

America's Voice

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association of People with Disabilities

American College of Nurse-Midwives

American College of Physicians

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations

American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

American Friends Service Committee  
American Lung Association  
American Muslim Health Professionals  
American Pediatric Society  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)  
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO  
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence  
Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL)  
ASISTA  
Association for Community Affiliated Plans  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)  
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action  
Border Network for Human Rights  
Bread for the World  
Catholic Health Association of the U.S.  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research (CLEAR)  
Center for Medicare Advocacy  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Center for Survivor Agency & Justice  
Center for the Study of Social Policy  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's Health Fund  
Children's HealthWatch  
Church World Service  
Coalition on Human Needs  
CommunicationFIRST  
Community Catalyst  
Community Change Action  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)

Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries  
Educare Learning Network  
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Faith in Action  
Faith in Public Life  
Families for Freedom  
Families USA  
Family Equality  
Family Voices  
Farmworker Justice  
FIRM Action  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Food Research & Action Center  
Freedom Network USA  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality  
Guttmacher Institute  
Hanan Refugees Relief Group  
Hep B United  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
Hispanic Federation  
HIV Medicine Association  
ideas42  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda  
Indivisible  
Jetpac Resource Center  
Justice for Migrant Women  
Justice in Aging  
Justice in Motion  
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)  
Little Lobbyists  
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger  
MLPB  
MomsRising  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
NASTAD  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Center for Children in Poverty  
National Center for Law and Economic Justice  
National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment (National PLACE)  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
National Coalition for Latinxs with Disabilities (CNLD)  
National Consumers League  
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council on Independent Living  
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)  
National Domestic Violence Hotline  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Health Law Program  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Homelessness Law Center  
National Housing Law Project  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice  
National Low Income Housing Coalition  
National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)  
National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights  
National Organization of API Ending Sexual Violence  
National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA)  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence  
National Rural Social Work Caucus  
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable  
National WIC Association  
National Women's Law Center  
National Working Positive Coalition  
Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies  
Northeastern University School of Law Immigrant Justice Clinic  
Pacific Island Health Officers' Association  
Partnership for America's Children  
Pediatric Policy Council  
Physicians for Reproductive Health  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America

Poligon Education Fund  
Positive Women's Network-USA  
Power to Decide  
Prevention Institute  
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)  
RespectAbility  
RESULTS  
Revolutionary Love Project  
Shriver Center on Poverty Law  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team  
Slow Food USA  
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Sojourners  
South Asian Public Health Association (SAPHA)  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center  
Start Early  
Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice  
Tahirih Justice Center  
The AIDS Institute  
The Forum for Youth Investment  
The Workers Circle  
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)  
UndocuBlack Network  
UNICEF USA (U.S. Fund for UNICEF)  
UnidosUS  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Refugee & Immigrant Services & Education  
United Farm Workers  
United We Dream Network  
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity  
World Institute on Disability  
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights

**Alabama**

¡HICA! Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama  
Adelante Alabama Worker Center  
Alabama Appleseed Center for Law and Justice  
Alabama Arise  
Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice  
Alabama Food Bank Association  
Alabama Institute for Social Justice

Hispanic Outreach Leadership and Action  
SPLC Action Fund

**Alaska**

Alaska Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

**Arizona**

Arizona Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander for Equity (AZ AANHPI for Equity)  
Arizona Center for Economic Progress  
Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Asian Pacific Community in Action  
Children's Action Alliance  
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project  
Island Liaison, Inc.  
William E. Morris Institute for Justice

**Arkansas**

Arkansas Coalition of Marshallese  
Marshallese Educational Initiative

**California**

Altura Centers for Health  
American Academy of Pediatrics - Orange County Chapter  
Asian Law Alliance  
Asian Resources, Inc  
California Association of Food Banks  
California Center for Rural Policy  
California Chapter 1, American Academy of Pediatrics  
California Immigrant Policy Center  
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network  
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence  
California Primary Care Association  
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation  
California WIC Association  
Californians Together  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
County Welfare Directors Association of California  
CRLA Foundation  
East Bay Sanctuary Covenant  
Equality California  
Feeding San Diego  
FIND Food Bank

Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano  
Food Share of Ventura County  
Foodbank of Santa Barbara County  
Futures Without Violence  
GLIDE  
Health Access California  
IKAR  
Immigrant Defense Advocates  
Indivisible Ventura  
Instituto de Educacion Popular del Sur de California  
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles  
L.A. Care Health Plan  
LA HERMANDAD HANK LACAYO FAMILY CENTER  
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank  
Nourish California  
Oasis Legal Services  
Open Heart Kitchen of Livermore  
Pacific Asian Counseling Services  
Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services  
San Diego Hunger Coalition  
San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium  
San Francisco-Marin Food Bank  
Second Harvest Food Bank Orange County  
Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County  
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley  
Second Harvest of the Greater Valley  
The Children's Partnership  
Vital Immigrant Defense Advocacy and Services (VIDAS)

### **Colorado**

American Academy of Pediatrics, Colorado Chapter  
American Friends Service Committee, Colorado  
Colorado Latino Leadership Advocacy and Research Organization  
Colorado Center on Law and Policy  
Colorado Children's Campaign  
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative  
Colorado Fiscal Institute  
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition  
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)  
ProgressNow Colorado  
Hunger Free Colorado  
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network



Rosa Belongs Here Committee  
The Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger  
Violence Free Colorado

### **Connecticut**

Connecticut Students for a Dream  
End Hunger Connecticut!  
Greater Hartford Legal Aid  
Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut

### **Delaware**

COMMUNITY LEGAL AID SOCIETY, INC. Delaware

### **Washington, DC**

Casa Ruby  
La Clínica del Pueblo

### **Florida**

Broward for Progress  
Faith in Florida  
Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Florida Health Justice Project  
Hispanic Services Council, Inc.  
Hispanic Unity of Florida, Inc.  
Jewish Community Relations Council of Broward County, Florida

### **Georgia**

Georgia Chapter - AAP  
Georgians for a Healthy Future  
Latino Community Fund INC  
SisterLove Inc.

### **Hawaii**

American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter  
Comunidad Latina de Hawaii  
Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights  
Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!  
Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center  
Hep Free Hawaii  
Maui County Immigrant Services Division  
Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.  
Pacific Gateway Center

The Legal Clinic, Hawai'i affiliate of JFON  
We Are Oceania

### **Idaho**

United Vision for Idaho

### **Illinois**

ACA Consumer Advocacy  
AIDS Foundation Chicago  
American Muslim Health Professionals  
Asian Health Coalition | Center for Asian Health Equity  
Enlace Chicago  
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group  
Housing Action Illinois  
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants  
Latino Policy Forum  
Legal Council for Health Justice  
Logan Square Neighborhood Association  
New American Welcome Center at the Z  
Shriver Center on Poverty Law

### **Indiana**

Immigrant Welcome Center  
Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council  
Marion County WIC

### **Iowa**

Iowa Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement  
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Monsoon Asians & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity

### **Kansas**

Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

### **Kentucky**

Kentucky Chapter of the AAP  
Kentucky Equal Justice Center  
Kentucky Voices for Health

**Louisiana**

Louisiana Budget Project  
Tulane Immigrant Rights Clinic

**Maine**

Cambodian Community Association of Maine  
Cross Cultural Community Services  
Hope Acts  
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
In Her Presence  
Ladder to the Moon Network  
Maine Business Immigration Coalition  
Maine Equal Justice  
Maine Immigrants Rights Coalition  
Maine Parent Federation  
Maine People's Alliance  
Mainers for Accountable Leadership  
New Mainers Resource Center, Portland Adult Education  
Preble Street  
Rwandese Community Association of Maine

**Maryland**

Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative, Inc.  
Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Inc.  
RESULTS DC/MD  
The Parents' Place of MD

**Massachusetts**

Action for Boston Community Development Inc. (ABCD)  
Boston Medical Center  
Central West Justice Center  
HarborCOV  
Immigrants' Assistance Center, Inc. (IAC)  
The Greater Boston Food Bank  
Western Mass Jewish Activists for Immigration Justice  
Children's Law Center of Massachusetts  
Health Care For All  
Health Law Advocates  
Immigration Legal Assistance Program, Ascentria Care Alliance  
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute  
MCAAP  
Project Bread  
The Right to Immigration Institute

### **Michigan**

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services  
Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC)  
Michigan League for Public Policy  
Voces

### **Minnesota**

Hunger Solutions Minnesota  
Minnesota Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics  
SEIU Healthcare Minnesota  
The Advocates for Human Rights  
West Central Initiative

### **Mississippi**

Mississippi Center for Justice

### **Missouri**

Bilingual International Assistant Services  
Missouri Health Care for All

### **Montana**

Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

### **Nebraska**

Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim  
Nebraska Appleseed

### **Nevada**

Children's Advocacy Alliance  
Nevada Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Silver State Equality

### **New Hampshire**

New Hampshire Legal Assistance

### **New Jersey**

Association for Special Children & Families

Family Based Services Association of NJ  
Family Voices NJ  
Our Revolution Trenton Mercer  
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network

**New Mexico**

New Mexico Asian Family Center  
New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty

**New York**

African Services Committee  
American Academy of Pediatrics, New York Chapter 2  
American Academy of Pediatrics, New York Chapter 3  
Apicha Community Health Center  
Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC, Inc.  
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Chinese Progressive Association  
Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)  
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families  
Community Health Care Association of NYS  
Garra (Cidadão Global)  
Her Justice, Inc.  
Hunger Solutions New York  
Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, inc.  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
New York Immigration Coalition  
Saratoga Immigration Coalition  
Strycker's Bay Neighborhood Council  
Treatment Action Group

**North Carolina**

Carolina Jews for Justice  
Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy  
Disability Rights North Carolina  
NC Child  
NC Pediatric Society  
North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
North Carolina Council of Churches  
North Carolina Justice Center  
Pisgah Legal Services  
Student Action with Farmworkers

**North Dakota**

Global Friends Coalition

Global Neighbors

**Ohio**

Columbus Mennonite Church

Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Ohio Domestic Violence Network

**Oklahoma**

Oklahoma Micronesian Coalition

Oklahoma Policy Institute

**Oregon**

Central City Concern

Oregon Food Bank

Oregon Pediatric Society

Our Children Oregon

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

SNAP Training and Employment Program

**Pennsylvania**

Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh (BCAP)

Casa San Jose

Coalition of African Communities

Community Legal Services of Philadelphia

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) Pennsylvania

Homeless Advocacy Project

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Pennsylvania Health Law Project

Pennsylvania WIC Association

**Rhode Island**

The Economic Progress Institute

The Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

United Way of Rhode Island

**South Carolina**

Alianza Latina

Lowcountry Immigration Coalition

South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center  
South Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

**South Dakota**

South Dakota Voices for Justice

**Tennessee**

Action by Christians Against Torture  
Tennessee Justice Center

**Texas**

Children At Risk  
Every Texan  
Feeding Texas  
Jane's Due Process  
La Unión del Pueblo Entero  
Migrant Center for Human Rights  
Proyecto Azteca  
RITA-Reform Immigration for Texas Alliance  
Texas Pediatric Society  
The Good Life Outcomes Program, at Change Happens! (Houston, TX)  
VELA

**Utah**

Voices for Utah Children

**Vermont**

Public Assets Institute

**Virginia**

Central Americans for Empowerment at UVA (CAFÉ at UVA)  
Legal Aid Justice Center  
The National Korean American Service and Education Consortium - Virginia (NAKASEC VA)  
Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

**Washington**

Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition  
Asian Counseling and Referral Service  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) Seattle Chapter, AFL-CIO  
Asian Pacific Islander Coalition Spokane  
Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of Washington  
Asian Pacific Islander Coalition-Yakima

Chinese Information and Service Center (CISC)  
Columbia Legal Services  
Community Health Network of Washington  
Community Health Plan of Washington  
Economic Opportunity Institute  
Entre Hermanos  
Feeding Washington  
Food Lifeline  
Health Care Is a Human Right WA  
International Community Health Services  
Khmer Community of Seattle-King County  
Northwest Harvest  
Northwest Health Law Advocates  
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project  
OneAmerica  
PAVE  
PSARA (Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action)  
Puget Sound Educational Service District  
Seattle Educare  
Spokane Immigrant Rights Coalition  
United Way of King County  
Washington Association for Community Health  
Washington Community Action Network  
Washington Healthcare Access Alliance  
Washington State Budget & Policy Center  
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Washington State Community Action Partnership

### **West Virginia**

National Association of Social Workers - West Virginia Chapter  
Rise Up WV  
West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy  
West Virginians for Affordable Health Care  
WV Citizen Action Group

### **Wisconsin**

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice  
Citizen Action of Wisconsin  
WIPPS-H2N  
Kids Forward  
Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin



**Wyoming**

American Civil Liberties Union of Wyoming