



May 27, 2019

Honorable Assemblymember Rob Bonta  
State Capitol, Room 2148  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB-4 Medi-Cal: eligibility. – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Bonta,

Independent California is a group devoted towards equal rights for all Californians, including those who are undocumented. I am writing today to express our support for AB 4, which removes immigration status as a reason to deny access to Medi-Cal.

If signed into law, AB 4 would be another step towards California becoming what Gov. Newsom calls a “universal state,” where all Californians are equal in the eyes of our state government. And as a practical matter, it would reduce California’s uninsured population and bring Californians one step closer to having a coherent, universal healthcare system, like residents of every other wealthy democracy in the world enjoy.

As with any program of any importance, the issue here is not politicians’ stated commitment to “California values,” but finding the money to pay for it. We would note that as current tax laws stand, anyone who receives a paycheck cannot help paying income and payroll taxes; in addition, there is no way whatsoever to live in California without paying sales taxes, a major source of the state’s revenue. Which is to say, whatever the original intent behind the United States’ decades-old immigration law, the

effect is to permanently exclude a certain class of taxpayers (the undocumented) from accessing taxpayer-funded services.

We believe the long-term solution is for the state California to collect directly the federal tax dollars Californians currently pay towards Medicaid and use them to the benefit of all Californians, rather than, as we do now, having the federal government collect these tax dollars for Medicaid, use a portion of them to subsidize other states, and exclude millions of our own tax-paying residents. California's status as both a donor state and the state with the highest rate of real poverty is an injustice Californians bear as part of participating in the federal system. If our response is to continue to shuffle this injustice onto the backs of undocumented Californians who are poor and sick in the name of fiscal prudence, what meaning do "California values" really have?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Marin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave Marin  
Chair of the Board  
Independent California  
[dave.marin@independentca.org](mailto:dave.marin@independentca.org)