

March 12, 2024

The Honorable Anna M. Caballero  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 412  
Sacramento, CA 95814



**Re: Support - AB 4 (Arambula) Covered California: Expansion**

Dear Senator Anna M. Caballero,

L.A. Care Health Plan – the nation’s largest public plan with more than 2.6 million Medi-Cal, Medicare Plus (Dual Eligibles), PASC- SEIU Homecare Workers, and Covered California enrollees — writes in support of AB 4 – which would require Covered California to develop options for expanding access to affordable health care coverage to Californians regardless of immigration status.

Undocumented Californians are overtly and unfairly excluded from accessing and purchasing health care coverage plans through Covered California, the state’s marketplace established under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). AB 4 would address this exclusion by taking the first step toward allowing undocumented Californians to buy health plans through Covered California. California has demonstrated principled leadership in extending healthcare coverage to all Medi-Cal eligible individuals, regardless of immigration status. Removing barriers to the state-based exchange is the next logical move, takes our great state one step closer to universal health coverage, and ensures that no Californian is barred from access to health care because of their immigration status.

The UC Berkeley Labor Center estimated that by 2024, only about 520,000 undocumented Californians would remain uninsured after the January 2024 Medi-Cal expansion for those 26 to 49 years of age, regardless of immigration status. Many of these half a million Californians would be eligible to purchase plans on Covered California if AB 4 is passed. The Labor Center also estimates that there are an additional 110,000 undocumented individuals who pay the full cost of health care plans on the private market but would otherwise be able to purchase coverage on Covered California. Passing AB 4 would be a significant step to ensuring that nearly all Californians have access to health care coverage, can live a healthy life, and can access health care without fear of medical debt.

L.A. Care strongly supports AB 4, which would reduce healthcare inequities as many of these undocumented individuals are people of color and have limited income. The bill helps build a more universal, efficient, and equitable health care system for all who call California home. California is stronger when everyone has access to health care. For these reasons, we support AB 4 and respectfully request your “aye” vote on this much needed legislation.

Dr. Alex Li  
Chief Health Equity Officer

Cristina Inglese  
Executive Director, Commercial Products