



August 14, 2015

The Honorable Jimmy Gomez
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

YOUTH ALIVE!
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RE: Senate Bill 4 (Lara) SUPPORT

Dear Assembly member Jimmy Gomez:

**HONORARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA
Former Mayor of Los Angeles

DIANNE FEINSTEIN
United States Senator

EDWARD JAMES OLMOS
Actor

AL JARREAU
Singer/Musician

Youth ALIVE!, a violence prevention and intervention organization in Oakland, California and member of the Alliance for Boys and Men of Color, expresses its strong support for Senate Bill 4 by Senator Ricardo Lara.

The Alliance for Boys and Men of Color actively pursues reforms that will increase access to health services, improve academic success, support neighborhood safety, reduce justice system involvement, and support employment opportunities for this vulnerable population.

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Senate Bill 4, as amended, makes technical fixes to budget trailer bill language that expanded access to healthcare coverage to all children and youth in California, regardless of immigration status and removes other barriers. Current policy specifically excludes adults from coverage provided through Medi-Cal, and even prohibits them from purchasing their own health insurance through Covered California due to their immigration status. It does not reflect our values, or serve the common good, to leave hundreds of thousands of immigrant workers, students, and family members without treatment for preventable ailments.

Recent changes to state law through the 2015-2016 budget ensure that all low income children and youth regardless of immigration status will be eligible for Medi-Cal. SB 4 ensures that this newly eligible population would transition from restricted scope Medi-Cal to full scope Medi-Cal within 30 days after the determination is made that this program may begin and ensures that those with serious medical conditions that require specialty care, who are being newly enrolled in the program, will be properly evaluated and referred.

Additionally, SB 4 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. Currently, undocumented people and immigrants approved for deferred action through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program of 2012, are excluded from purchasing this coverage.¹ SB 4 removes this barrier of injustice, and would make California's implementation of the ACA more inclusive.

For these reasons, we ask for your support of SB 4. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

ANNE C. MARKS
Executive Director
Youth ALIVE!
Oakland, CA

¹ In 2010 Congress passed the Affordable Care Act that excluded undocumented immigrants from participation in state Exchanges and the Medicaid expansion. Existing rules excluded the undocumented from Medi-Cal were maintained. In August of 2012, President Obama's administration established regulations preventing those approved for Deferred Action from access to exchanges under the Affordable Care Act.

Youth ALIVE is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Our Tax ID is 94-3143254.