

California Immigrant Policy Center

1225 8th Street, Suite 590 ♦ Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone (916) 448-6762 ♦ Fax (916) 448-6774

URGENT ACTION ALERT

SEPTEMBER, 14 2007

URGE THE GOVERNOR TO SIGN AB 8 ! BRING HEALTH CARE TO MILLIONS OF CALIFORNIANS

The Legislature has passed Assembly Bill 8 (Núñez) – a measure that will bring health care to millions of uninsured Californians. Most of the uninsured are people of color who come from working poor families but do not receive employer-based health care. AB 8 is a real solution that works towards bringing health access to all Californians.

After working all year to ensure that AB 8 represents the needs of our communities, you have a chance to **help achieve real health care reform now**. Please contact the governor **today** and **ask him to support AB 8**.

Sacramento	1-866-463-8911	Riverside	1-866-458-8464
Fresno	1-866-575-3782	San Diego	1-866-515-5817
Los Angeles	1-866-396-0812	San Francisco	1-866-579-5982

Talking points for calling the governor:

- AB 8 will bring health care to millions of uninsured Californians.
- AB 8 is a step in the right direction and incorporates much of the governor's health care proposal.
- AB 8 promotes shared responsibility by requiring employers, workers, the government and private insurers to all make contributions toward paying for the cost of care.
- Thank you for declaring 2007 the year of health care reform.
- We have a huge opportunity to bring health care to those who need it most.

California and the rest of the nation are watching: please deliver on the commitment to achieve health care reform this year by signing AB 8.

What AB 8 does:

- AB 8 provides health coverage to California's children by expanding Medi-Cal and Healthy Families to all children, regardless of immigration status, with family incomes at or below 300% of the federal poverty level. The bill also expands eligibility for these programs to low-income parents.
- A large portion of the uninsured are already eligible for but are not enrolled in public programs; AB 8 increases participation in public programs by simplifying eligibility and enrollment.
- AB 8 has new affordability provisions that ensure no one will have to take up health care coverage they cannot afford; the bill exempts workers from accepting coverage that costs more than 5% of their wages.
- AB 8 establishes a statewide purchasing pool that will give millions of workers access to health care. Low-income workers enrolled in the purchasing pool can apply for subsidies to help make health care coverage more affordable and the cost of their monthly premiums will be capped between 0 to 5% of their income.
- AB 8 does not contain an individual mandate, such as the mandate included in the governor's proposal. Under the governor's proposal, many immigrants working for small employers, who would be exempt from the employer mandate, would nevertheless be required to obtain health insurance for themselves and their dependents, even if it is not affordable.
- AB 8 does not contain the governor's proposed \$2 million cut to the safety net – the existing county clinic and public hospital system upon which so many low-income immigrant families rely. Many immigrants will not benefit from the employer mandate or public program expansions proposed in AB8 and the governor's proposal; preserving the safety net is imperative to the health and well-being of our communities.