

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 13, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20200

Dear President Biden,

We write to request the swift finalization of the proposed rule to expand health coverage for those participating in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, crime victims, and immigrant children, as any further delays will prevent countless families from accessing the health care they deserve.

In April 2023, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) proposed a regulation to make DACA recipients eligible for coverage under Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This rule also enhances coverage for other groups, including those approved for Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) status and children applying for humanitarian relief.

If this rule is not soon finalized, individuals in need may not be able to fully benefit from the 2024 Affordable Care Act open enrollment period, which began on November 1, 2023. In the proposed rule, HHS wisely selected this same day for the proposed implementation, allowing newly eligible individuals to benefit from the extensive outreach and enrollment resources dedicated to open enrollment.

DACA recipients are disproportionately from communities of color. DACA recipients are also disproportionately uninsured, and tend to experience higher barriers to health care – these trends all contribute to racial health disparities in the U.S. Youth approved for Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) status often have to wait years before receiving a status adjustment. Due to confusion around current rule implementation, access to health coverage has been delayed for many.

For additional transparency into the rulemaking process, we also request you address the following questions:

1. What is preventing HHS from finalizing the rule, and how can congressional allies help address any barriers?

2. When the rule is finalized, what resources will your administration devote to ensuring newly eligible people are aware of their health coverage options?

The preamble of the proposed rule stated, “implementation of these changes would be most effective during a period when there are many outreach and enrollment activities occurring.” The time to finalize this policy and expand health coverage is now.

We look forward to receiving your response by November 30, 2023.

Sincerely,



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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on  
Immigration Integrity,  
Security, and Enforcement



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



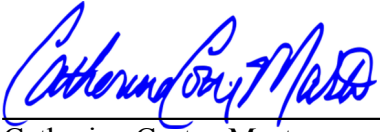
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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



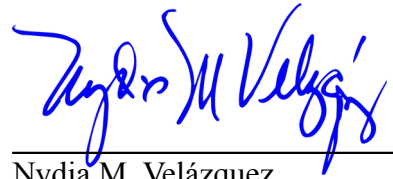
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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



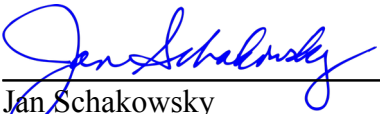
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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



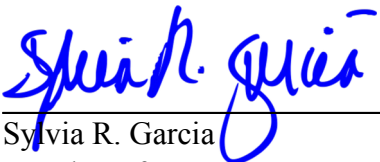
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



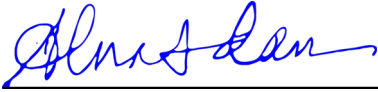
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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



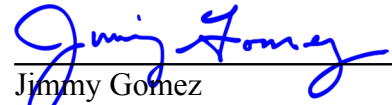
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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



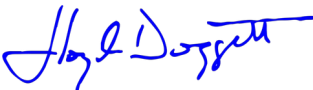
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



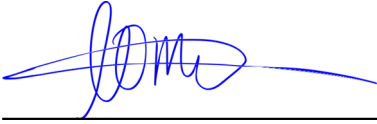
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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



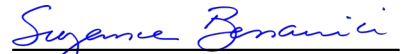
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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



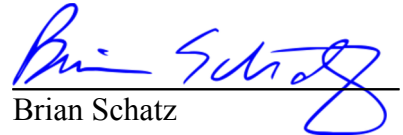
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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



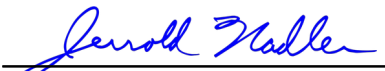
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Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



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Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



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Ferrol Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress




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Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress

/s/

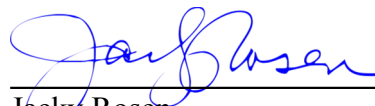
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Laphonza Butler  
United States Senator



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



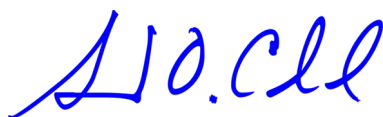
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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



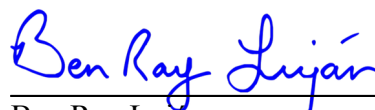
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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



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Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



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Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



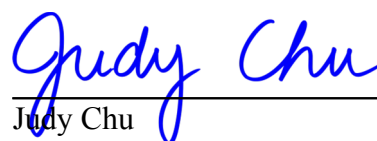
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David J. Trone  
Member of Congress



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Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress




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Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



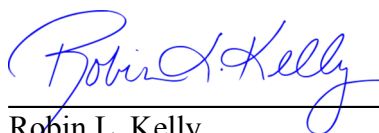
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



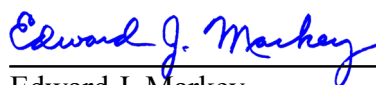
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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



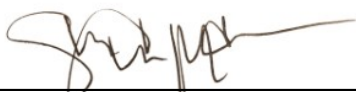
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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



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Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress





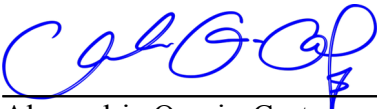
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Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



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MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress



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Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



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Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



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Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



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Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress



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Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress



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Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



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Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



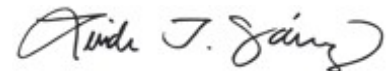
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Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Morgan McGarvey  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress



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Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



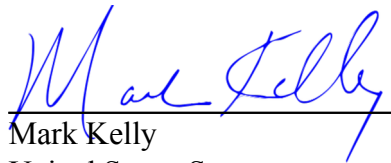
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Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



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Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



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Robert J. Menendez  
Member of Congress



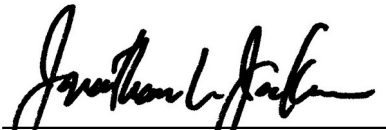
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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress




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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



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Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



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Alex Padilla  
United States Senator