

The Honorable Joseph Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

For far too many undocumented immigrants, access to the life-saving COVID-19 vaccine has been hindered by their immigration status, with reports of [vaccination sites turning away undocumented immigrants](#), certain pharmacies requiring Social Security cards or state IDs, and immigration enforcement failing to vaccinate immigrants in detention.

We, the undersigned immigrant rights, public health, and allied organizations, write to you to express our concern regarding undocumented immigrants' exclusion from accessing COVID-19 vaccines and urge your administration to include undocumented communities in all forms of COVID-19 relief, which includes using every available means to deliver on a pathway to citizenship so that status is no longer a barrier to accessing health care, vaccines, and so much more.

Your administration has made clear that everyone, of all immigration statuses, should have access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Still, certain state requirements have made it difficult, and at times impossible, for some undocumented immigrants and families to get vaccinated. In Florida, state officials put in place [proof of residency requirements](#) for residents to access vaccines. The statewide advisory cruelly and deliberately made it harder for Florida residents, particularly undocumented immigrants and those who lack housing, from being able to access the vaccine.

In early April, an undocumented Salvadoran migrant living in Homestead was [turned away for the fifth time](#) from getting a vaccine because she did not have a Florida ID. The single mother of four has been working as a farmworker and housekeeper, risking her own life to keep our communities fed during this unprecedented health crisis. While Florida recently [rescinded](#) the statewide proof of residency requirements, some vaccination sites have separate requirements that do not align with the state's policy. Added to this, in regions like Miami-Dade County, Central American and Haitian immigrants remain [disproportionately undervaccinated](#) compared to populations in other state localities.

In Texas, [at least 14 undocumented immigrants were denied COVID-19 vaccines](#) from the University of Texas Rio Grande vaccination site. Jesus Diaz, one of the individuals who sought the vaccine, said staff members at the site asked for his Social Security number and said that vaccines were "exclusive for American citizens." With over [580,000 deaths from COVID-19 nationwide](#), it is absolutely imperative that access to vaccines is made easier, not more difficult, for everyone.

Undocumented people do not have a Social Security card and in many states, they also cannot acquire a driver's license or state ID. According to [Appendix G](#) of the CDC Data Use and Sharing

Agreement, the CDC will not seek Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers or passport numbers from vaccine providers. States that seek this information are unnecessarily and deliberately attempting to exclude undocumented immigrants from accessing the vaccine. While the Department of Health and Human Services [requires providers to ask for individuals' SSNs](#) as part of the HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program, it is critical that your administration minimizes vaccine hesitancy among immigrant communities by further emphasizing that patients do not have to share this information in order to access a vaccine.

Not only is denying vaccines to people simply because of their status inhumane and cruel, but with roughly 11 million undocumented people living in the U.S., we cannot recover as a country until all immigrants have access to COVID-19 vaccines. Some health officials have also shared their concerns regarding undocumented immigrants exclusion from the vaccine, stating that vaccinating undocumented communities is critical to achieve broad population immunity.

In spite of your administration's public commitment to ensuring vaccine access for people of all immigration statuses, these patterns have shown us that equitable vaccine access has not been the case for many immigrants. Until undocumented communities receive a pathway to citizenship, there will always be people excluded from vaccines.

With millions of lives on the line, now is the time to be bold and protect our communities. We urge you to work with HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra and other public health leaders in your administration in issuing clear guidance to states nationwide that undocumented people must have access to the COVID-19 vaccine as well as provide accountability measures to states that have actively blocked immigrants from accessing vaccines.

Additionally, we urge you to do everything in your power to encourage the Senate to pass the Dream, Secure and Farm Workforce Modernization bills to deliver much-needed relief to immigrant communities. Collectively, these three bills would provide a pathway to citizenship to over 5 million immigrant young people, TPS holders and farm workers if passed. Already that would be over half of the overall 11 million undocumented people living in the U.S. whose status would not be a barrier to getting vaccinated and who you promised to fight for when you took office.

Sincerely,

American Muslim Health Professionals
American Public Health Association
America's Voice
AMMPARO, Holy Trinity Lutheran
Ascension
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
Batrice and Associates
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
Blue Future

Broward for Progress
California National Organization for Women
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Chispa LCV
Church World Service
Coalition on Human Needs
Coalition of Labor Union Women, AFL-CIO
DemCast USA
Dream Big Nevada
Doctors For America
Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Faith in Public Life
Filipino American Society
Fuerte Arts Movement
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Hispanic Federation
Immigration Working Group of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod
Immunize Nevada
Indivisible Georgia Coalition
Indivisible Northern Nevada
Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice
Iowa 1st District Asian/Pacific Islander Caucus
Justice Action Center
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
League of Conservation Voters
Living United for Change in Arizona (LUCHA)
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
Mainers for Accountable Leadership
Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU)
Mi Familia Vota
Missouri Asian American Youth Foundation
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Association of Social Workers
National Council on Independent Living
National Immigration Law Center
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Children
New American Leaders Action Fund
Northridge Indivisible

OH Greater Akron Canton ABSW
Oxfam America
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
RAICES
SEIU
SIREN (Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network)
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
Stop the Spread
UndocuBlack Network
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
United We Dream
Voto Latino
We Demand More Coalition