



FIRST FOCUS

CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN

The Honorable Luis Gutierrez
United States House of Representatives
2408 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

September 30, 2015

Dear Congressman Gutierrez:

On behalf of First Focus Campaign for Children, a bipartisan advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families the priority in federal policy and budget decisions, I would like to express our support of the Exchange Inclusion for a Healthy America Act of 2015. This bill will help achieve the important goal of making affordable health care accessible to everyone in America, including undocumented immigrant youth and families.

The First Focus Campaign for Children (FFCC) has been working to advocate for policies that expand access to health care for all children, regardless of immigration status, and has been a long-time supporter of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM Act). Following the Administration's 2012 announcement that made beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program ineligible for federal health care programs, FFCC also strongly opposed this restrictive policy. To date, over 680,000 young people have benefitted from the DACA program, and FFCC believes that these youth deserve the same access to federal benefits as other recipients of deferred action. We also firmly believe that all children, regardless of immigration status, should have access to the health care and resources needed to ensure that they can grow into strong and productive adults. DACA beneficiaries are already contributing to our economy and helping to shape our country's future, and we urge policymakers to do more to enable them to fully contribute to the country they know and love.

We are pleased to support this bill, which takes a critical step in expanding access to healthcare to undocumented immigrants, including DACA beneficiaries, by removing the restriction prohibiting them from applying for coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). We thank you again for your leadership on behalf of immigrant children and families and look forward to working with you on making affordable health care accessible to all.

Sincerely,

Bruce Lesley
President