



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, D.C., April 24, 2015 – The Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO), joined 120 other organizations in support of the Health Equity and Access under the Law (HEAL) for Immigrant Women and Families Act. This recently released legislation expands access to care by removing barriers to health insurance coverage for immigrants authorized to live and work in the United States. AAPCHO recognizes the continued leadership of Congresswoman Lujan Grisham to fight for our immigrant community.

HEAL for Immigrant Women and Families Act removes the 5-year waiting period for lawfully present immigrants to access benefits from Medicaid and CHIP. It also allows individuals granted deferred action to purchase qualified health plans in the ACA Marketplace. Finally, this legislation restores Medicaid eligibility to Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrants. Each of these steps restores equal access for immigrants to social services that their tax dollars support, and allows communities to benefit from a strong and healthy workforce.

AAPCHO believes this legislation will benefit individuals whose health needs are not being met. One in 10 Asian Americans and 1 in 7 Pacific Islanders are insured through the Medicaid program. It is estimated that 1 in 8 Asian American immigrants, or about 1.3 million persons is undocumented, and our community has much to gain from expanding services to the DACA/DAPA eligible populations. Finally, COFA migrants, or citizens of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau deserve full access to Medicaid as laid out in their compact agreements with the United States in exchange for military access and advantage.

AAPCHO, which represents clinics serving the fastest growing immigrant community in the United States, is invested in the health of our immigrant population. We are excited to support this legislation and work in partnership with our clinics and partners to meet the needs of our community.

About AAPCHO

AAPCHO is a national association of 35 community health organizations dedicated to promoting advocacy, collaboration, and leadership that improves the health status and access of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islanders in the United States. For more information on AAPCHO and its Guiding Principles and Values, please visit www.aapcho.org.

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