

DACA-LED SOCIAL JUSTICE FIRM COMMENDS BIDEN ADMINISTRATION FOR INCLUSION OF DACA RECIPIENTS INTO THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

In 2020 and 2021, Masa Group led a campaign to enact this change

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, D.C.—In response to President Biden's <u>announcement</u> that the administration is expanding eligibility for the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including Medicaid, health insurance coverage, and tax subsidies, to young adults with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Masa Group emphatically commends the Biden administration, Secretary Becerra, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for the long-awaited change.

Under the <u>forthcoming regulation</u>, DACA recipients will finally be able to purchase health insurance on the exchanges and receive tax subsidies to afford health care, just as Congress intended when it passed the ACA in 2010. Nearly 600K DACA recipients will benefit from this decision, and it will also strengthen the ACA by injecting this population of young and healthy adults into health insurance markets while further facilitating the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jose Magaña-Salgado, Principal and Founder of Masa Group, stated: "As a DACA recipient who was personally excluded from health care access under the existing policy, I am immensely heartened by this announcement and tremendously commend the Biden administration, Secretary Xavier Becerra, and political and career civil servants for this monumental announcement. This forthcoming change works toward the aspirational goal that DACA recipients will not live in uncertainty as to whether health care costs will drive them and their families into bankruptcy.

It implements the original vision of the ACA–that all immigrants who have permission to remain in the United States should have affordable access to health care. Your immigration status should *never* dictate whether you live or die. We urge the administration and HHS to move expediently in promulgating the rule to restore access to the ACA. Masa Group will be working with our partners, clients, and allies to submit comments in support."

Previously, Masa Group <u>campaigned for</u> the inclusion of DACA recipients in the ACA with the support of the <u>Roddenberry Foundation</u>, developing on resources and materials such as <u>NGO</u> <u>letters</u>, <u>Congressional letters</u>, and the report <u>Expanding ACA Access to DACA Holders in</u> <u>Response to COVID-19</u>.

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Masa Group's mission is to secure progressive, just, and bold social justice policies at the state, local, and national levels on behalf of immigrant rights organizations. Masa Group is a social entrepreneurship, collaborating with clients that support progressive public policy. For more information about Masa Group, visit <u>masadc.com</u>.