



Cover All Kids

An Act to Ensure Equitable Health Coverage for Children (H.1237/S.740)

Lead Sponsors: Rep. Dave Rogers and Sen. Sal DiDomenico

Why is this legislation needed?

- Tens of thousands of children and young adults in Massachusetts cannot access the health care they need because of their immigration status. [Dylan](#) is one of these children.
- [Safety net programs](#) currently available to this population have limits on many services, such as mental health and dental care, prescription drugs and durable medical equipment (for example, wheelchairs). Other services are not covered at all, including home-based care, eyeglasses, hearing aids and many therapies (for example, ABA therapy for autism).
- Medicaid coverage in childhood [has been shown](#) to improve lifelong health, educational and financial outcomes.
- Inadequate coverage can lead to delayed care, worsening or new health conditions and use of more expensive care through emergency departments or longer hospital stays, [including in adulthood](#).
- [Twelve states](#) have passed similar policies: California, Washington, Oregon, Illinois, New York, Washington D.C., New Jersey, Connecticut, Vermont, Rhode Island, Maine and Colorado.
Massachusetts and New Hampshire are the only remaining New England states that restrict Medicaid eligibility based on immigration status for children of all ages.

Why is this a health equity issue?

- MassHealth covers many of the [state's most underserved](#) residents, but the program leaves out certain immigrants, even if they meet all other eligibility criteria.
- Coverage barriers put additional stress on immigrant families, who already face barriers to linguistically and culturally responsive care, experience [health disparities](#) and are [disproportionately impacted](#) by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Access to comprehensive coverage and care is especially important for [children and youth with special health care needs](#).
- Cover All Kids was included in the Legislative [Health Equity Taskforce](#) recommendations, and expanding MassHealth coverage to individuals and families regardless of immigration status is a key priority of the [Health Equity Compact](#). This policy is also highlighted in recent reports from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation regarding [priorities for the new administration and legislative session](#) and [reducing health insurance disparities](#).

What does this legislation do?

- This legislation would expand comprehensive MassHealth coverage to state residents under age 21 whose only barrier to eligibility currently is their immigration status.

Supporting Organizations

*Cover All Kids is supported by a growing coalition of organizations.
As of June 2023, the following organizations have endorsed H.1237/S.740:*

1199SEIU – Massachusetts
Asian Women for Health
Association for Behavioral Healthcare
Boston Children’s Hospital
Boston Medical Center
Brazilian American Center (BRACE)
Cambridge Health Alliance
Chica Project
Children's HealthWatch
Children’s League of Massachusetts
Children’s Vision Massachusetts
Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
East Boston Community Council (EBCC)
Federation for Children with Special Needs
GreenRoots, Inc.
Haitian Community Partners
Health Care For All
Health Law Advocates
HopeHealth Pedi Pal
Immigrants' Assistance Center
Immigrant Service Providers Group/Health
Joint Committee for Children’s Health Care in Everett (JCCHCE)
Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MCAAP)
Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium
Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers
Mass Family Voices
Mass General Brigham
MLPB
Parent/Professional Advocacy League
Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts
Rian Immigrant Center

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