



Guiding Principles on Health Integration in Immigration Reform

- ∂ Successful immigration reform will be inclusive, humane, and reflect our nation's values and priorities.
- ∂ New responsibilities required of immigrants must also come with the rights and benefits of lawful status.
- ∂ A roadmap to citizenship must include a roadmap to economic and social integration for all immigrants and their families.
- ∂ The majority of newly legalized immigrants are part of mixed-status families with citizen children; the rights and needs of the entire family must be recognized and protected.
- ∂ Everyone in the U.S. should have access to affordable health care and health coverage to ensure:
 - Our nation's children have the opportunity to learn and succeed in school;
 - A healthy, talented, and productive workforce;
 - All of us can live in safe, thriving communities.
- ∂ It is more cost-effective and fair for the nation, states and local communities to allow individuals to pay their fair share of health care costs rather than excluding anyone solely based on immigration status.
- ∂ The key way to address the rising costs of health care is to ensure all residents have access to affordable preventive and primary health care in order to reduce costly and unnecessary emergency care.
- ∂ Waiting periods or other restrictions to health care, health insurance and economic supports delay and deny individuals who are already part of our communities the opportunity to overcome poverty and to integrate. These policies only harm all of us in the short and long term and do not address the root causes of migration.
- ∂ If we want immigrants to fully participate, contribute and integrate, we must also ensure that they have fair and reasonable opportunities to do so rather than enacting policies that continue to exclude or marginalize
- ∂ Immigrants want all the same things the rest of us do – to pay their fair share, to be able to provide a stable, healthy, and safe environment for their family and neighbors, and to have opportunities to fulfill their dreams and give back to a country they call home.
- ∂ Integration is a responsibility and investment that only leads to better outcomes and makes our country stronger. Legalization without investing in integration today will lead to larger fiscal and societal costs in the long-term.
- ∂ Reform must promote a vision of integration and equal rights for immigrants rather than avoiding or staying silent on whether immigrants should have a right to the economic supports, education, and the health care their tax dollars support. Remaining silent only serves to reinforce the other side's narrative that immigrants are not us, but the "other" or that immigrants get special treatment over citizens.
- ∂ Employers who benefit from the skills and talents of immigrants should share in the responsibility to help them integrate so that these individuals are not exploited or treated differently than other employees.
- ∂ Advocates must hold the President and Members of Congress accountable for kicking the can and promising to fix through immigration reform the exclusion of undocumented immigrants from buying private health insurance in the Affordable Care Act (ACA or Obamacare). If not then nor now, then when, if ever, will it get addressed?