



A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Judy Chu
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Rep. Chu:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,200 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, sponsors, and related organizations, I would like to thank you for introducing the Coronavirus Immigrant Families Protection Act and to express our support for this legislation to assist immigrant families during this critical time.

As the Catholic health ministry, our mission and our ethical standards in health care are rooted in and inseparable from the Catholic Church's teachings about the dignity of each and every human person, created in the image of God. These values form the basis for our steadfast commitment both to the principle that every person in our nation should have access to quality, affordable health care and to ensuring that all persons, regardless of their immigration status, are treated justly and shown the dignity and respect they deserve. This is even more urgently needed during this public health crisis, when so many immigrant workers and families are suffering disproportionately from job losses and lack of access to health care.

CHA supports the Coronavirus Immigrant Families Protection Act to help correct this imbalance and ensure that all immigrants regardless of their economic or legal status will have access to testing and treatment for covid-19. This is not only our moral imperative as a nation but also a fundamental contribution to our public health efforts to stem the tide of the coronavirus. CHA applauds this legislation's provisions to:

- **Modify immigration policies that would deter immigrants from seeking health services for the duration of the coronavirus emergency and for 60 days after the emergency ends**, including suspending the public charge rule and suspending immigration enforcement actions at or in transit to/from sensitive locations such as hospitals and other health care facilities.
- **Ensure that everyone has access to covid-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines** by clarifying that Medicaid coverage for covid-19-related services is available to everyone regardless of immigration status and prohibiting discrimination in any program funded by a coronavirus relief bill based on actual or perceived immigration status.
- **Provide \$100 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide language access and public outreach** on coronavirus preparedness, response,

and recovery to hard-to-reach populations including minorities, those with limited English proficiency and those with disabilities.

- **Ensure access to coronavirus economic relief measures for vulnerable communities** by allowing immigrant taxpayers to access cash relief benefits with an individual tax identification number (ITIN) and automatically extending expiring work authorization for immigrants during the coronavirus emergency for the same time period as was previously authorized.

Thank you again for introducing this important legislation and please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sr. Mary Haddad".

Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM
President and CEO

cc: Members of the House