



Insuring Every Child in Pennsylvania

Dream Care – Why it Matters

- 19,000 children who are very low income are barred from enrolling in Medicaid and Pennsylvania’s Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) because they are undocumented immigrants.
- Eight out of ten of these children haven’t been able to go to a health care provider or are receiving significantly delayed care.
- Nearly half of these children haven’t seen a dentist in more than year.
- Three quarters of these children cannot get the medications they need.

Dream Care – The Answer

- Remove the 13 words from the PA statute that currently deny undocumented children access to health care.
- The number of children who are not eligible for insurance is less than 1% of children in Pennsylvania.
- PA can cover these kids for \$7.2 million, or less than 1/2,500th of 1% of the state budget.
- It costs approximately 50% less to insure a child through the CHIP program than the average uncompensated care costs for children currently being covered by hospitals and the state (as of 2015).

Dream Care - It Can Happen Here!

- Seven out of every ten Americans believe that undocumented children should receive the same benefits as refugees, which would qualify them for Medicaid or CHIP under federal and state law.
- Public support is growing for Dream Care as evidenced by the 101-member strong “Dream Care Coalition.”
- In seven other states, children who are undocumented immigrants are eligible for enrollment in CHIP or Medicaid. Former Governors Bruce Rauner (R – Illinois), Pete Wilson (R- California) and William Weld (R- Massachusetts) were among the first state executives to enact this fiscally responsible measure more than a decade ago. Oregon, New York, New Jersey and Washington states along with Washington DC also cover all kids. Utah and Delaware are actively pursuing this change as well.

Visit www.pccy.org/initiatives/health-insruance-for-all-kids/ for coalition members and more information.

Dream Care - One Family’s Story

Miguel sits at the table pushing around the rice and beans on his plate with his fork. “Eat something, hijo,” his mother pleads. “I can’t,” he replies. “My stomach hurts too much.” It’s been this way every night and a good part of most days for more than six months.

Miguel, once an active, cheerful 11 year old who loved sports, has lost a startling 30 pounds and turned into a listless homebody. He’s missed more than 30 days of school, causing his grades to drop as he falls behind the rest of his class. A few times, when his pain was really severe, there were trips to the emergency room, resulting in \$4,000 in unpaid medical bills. “All the time I’m worried,” says his mother. “All the year he’s sick and I am feeling so terrible because we can’t afford to see a specialist. If only he had insurance, I could get him to the right place.”