

Since taking office, the President has signed executive orders and memoranda that have a direct and **detrimental impact on immigrants, their communities, and the community health centers that care for them.**

Patients of community health centers have gone so far as to cancel appointments and question whether to maintain their enrollment in programs like Medicaid, out of fear of deportation, putting their health and the health of their communities at risk.

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**Threats to Immigrants Hard Earned Benefits:** Congressional proposals to cut Medicaid to increase funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol strips communities of their resources and stokes fear in families, preventing access to basic services including health care which keep communities and their economies healthy. Cutting Medicaid will force California to cut and redirect health care funding – threatening California’s hard-won gains in expanding health care access to everyone regardless of immigration status and exacerbating California’s health care crisis.

**ICE Raids:** The President’s call for increased ICE raids has directly impacted our patients. The President ordered the Department of Homeland Security to revoke the long-standing “sensitive locations” policy which limits enforcement actions by ICE at locations deemed “sensitive,” including but not limited to schools, places of worship, and medical treatment and health care facilities. In response, health centers are being forced to evaluate policies and quickly work to reassure patients they should continue to seek services. Health centers have already shared at least one instance of ICE officials, now emboldened by the Administration’s latest actions, briefly entering a health center. Churches, schools, and health care facilities are pillars of local communities. Using them as sites for enforcement activities threatens and disrupts the safety and cohesion of communities as a whole.

**Workforce:** California is experiencing a severe shortage of health care providers – any threat to our providers is a threat to patient care. In fact, in 2022 – more than 8 million Californians lived in primary care health professional shortage areas. Health Care providers authorized to work under terms of a visa or work program are a critical part of California’s health center workforce, without the ability to serve their California community – all Californians suffer.

**Economy:** The Immigration Research Initiative found that for each 1,000 newly arrived immigrant workers, state and local revenues are estimated to increase by \$3.6 million over five years. Every year, undocumented immigrants contribute \$8.5 billion in tax revenue to state and local communities. Threats to our immigrant communities are threats to our national, state, and local economies.

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California’s community health centers maintain our commitment to serve everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. We are the foundation of the state’s safety net which serves millions of low-income, vulnerable communities. **We ask that lawmakers stand against policies that threaten the immigrant population that is such an integral part of the communities we serve.**