



October 31, 2019

Department of State, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget
Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs, Office of Visa Services
Docket Number: DOS-2019-0039

Re: Notice of Information Collection Under OMB Emergency Review; Immigrant Health Insurance Coverage

To whom it may concern:

I write on behalf of the National Partnership for Women & Families in response to the Emergency Submission Comment on Immigrant Health Insurance Coverage. The National Partnership works to improve the lives of women and families by achieving equality for all women, and I write to register our adamant opposition to the presidential proclamation on Immigrant Health Insurance Coverage.

The Administration's move to deny entry or residency to those without proof of health insurance is the latest assault on the health and well-being of women and families in a relentless campaign.

That includes the callous separation of children from their parents at the border, the deaths of migrant children while in U.S. custody, placing pregnant women in detainment, the inhumane conditions for in detention, and the threat to deport immigrants who seek Medicaid or any public assistance.

This shameful policy places immigrant women and their families at tremendous risk. Proponents of the policy make the dubious claim that it will alleviate high health care costs. But the reality is that it is yet one more attempt to sabotage the Affordable Care Act-completely failing to address the underlying challenges of our health care system, while further victimizing immigrants. If enacted, it will disproportionately harm immigrant women of color and poorer immigrants. The message could not be more explicit, only those who are wealthy and white are welcome.

This proclamation violates the core principles of our democracy, as exemplified by the 48-hour comment period under the pretense of an emergency. We strongly urge the Administration to rescind this proclamation before it goes into effect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra L. Ness". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Debra L. Ness
President