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(Original Signature of Member)

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To expand access to health care services, including sexual, reproductive, and maternal health services, for immigrant women, men, and families by removing legal barriers to health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To expand access to health care services, including sexual, reproductive, and maternal health services, for immigrant women, men, and families by removing legal barriers to health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Health Equity and
5 Access under the Law for Immigrant Women and Families

1 Act of 2014” or as the “HEAL Immigrant Women and
2 Families Act of 2014”.

3 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds as follows:

5 (1) Insurance coverage reduces harmful health
6 disparities by alleviating cost barriers to and in-
7 creasing utilization of basic preventive health serv-
8 ices, especially among low-income and underserved
9 populations, and especially among women.

10 (2) Based solely on their immigration status,
11 many immigrants and their families face legal re-
12 strictions on their ability to obtain health insurance
13 coverage through Medicaid, CHIP, and Health In-
14 surance Exchanges.

15 (3) Lack of health insurance contributes to per-
16 sistent disparities in the prevention, diagnosis, and
17 treatment of negative health outcomes borne by im-
18 migrants and their families.

19 (4) Immigrant women are disproportionately of
20 reproductive age, low-income, and lacking health in-
21 surance coverage. Legal barriers to affordable health
22 insurance coverage therefore particularly exacerbate
23 their risk of negative sexual, reproductive, and ma-
24 ternal health outcomes, with lasting health and eco-

1 tunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, payment shall be made
2 under this section for care and services that are furnished
3 to aliens, including those described in paragraph (1), if
4 they otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for med-
5 ical assistance under the State plan approved under this
6 title (other than the requirement of the receipt of aid or
7 assistance under title IV, supplemental security income
8 benefits under title XVI, or a State supplementary pay-
9 ment), and are lawfully present in the United States.”;

10 (2) in subparagraph (B)—

11 (A) by striking “a State that has elected to
12 provide medical assistance to a category of
13 aliens under subparagraph (A)” and inserting
14 “aliens provided medical assistance pursuant to
15 subparagraph (A)”;

16 (B) by striking “to such category” and in-
17 serting “to such alien”;

18 (3) in subparagraph (C)—

19 (A) by striking “an election by the State
20 under subparagraph (A)” and inserting “the
21 application of subparagraph (A)”;

22 (B) by inserting “or be lawfully present”
23 after “lawfully reside”;

24 (C) by inserting “or present” after “law-
25 fully residing” each place it appears.

1 (b) CHIP.—Subparagraph (J) of section 2107(e)(1)
2 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397gg(e)(1)) is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 “(J) Paragraph (4) of section 1903(v) (re-
5 lating to lawfully present individuals).”.

6 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
8 graph (2), the amendments made by this section
9 shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this
10 Act and shall apply to services furnished on or after
11 the date that is 90 days after such date of the enact-
12 ment.

13 (2) EXCEPTION IF STATE LEGISLATION RE-
14 QUIRED.—In the case of a State plan for medical as-
15 sistance under title XIX, or a State child health plan
16 under title XXI, of the Social Security Act which the
17 Secretary of Health and Human Services determines
18 requires State legislation (other than legislation ap-
19 propriating funds) in order for the plan to meet the
20 additional requirements imposed by the amendments
21 made by this section, the respective State plan shall
22 not be regarded as failing to comply with the re-
23 quirements of such title solely on the basis of its
24 failure to meet these additional requirements before
25 the first day of the first calendar quarter beginning

1 after the close of the first regular session of the
2 State legislature that begins after the date of the en-
3 actment of this Act. For purposes of the previous
4 sentence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year
5 legislative session, each year of such session shall be
6 deemed to be a separate regular session of the State
7 legislature.

8 **SEC. 4. REMOVING BARRIERS TO HEALTH COVERAGE FOR**
9 **INDIVIDUALS GRANTED DEFERRED ACTION**
10 **FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of eligibility
12 under any of the provisions referred to in subsection (b),
13 individuals granted deferred action under the Deferred Ac-
14 tion for Childhood Arrivals process of the Department of
15 Homeland Security, as described in the memorandum of
16 the Secretary of Homeland Security on June 15, 2012,
17 shall be considered lawfully present in the United States.

18 (b) PROVISIONS DESCRIBED.—The provisions de-
19 scribed in this subsection are the following:

20 (1) EXCHANGE ELIGIBILITY.—Section 1311 of
21 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42
22 U.S.C. 18031).

23 (2) REDUCED COST-SHARING ELIGIBILITY.—
24 Section 1402 of the Patient Protection and Afford-
25 able Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18071).

1 (3) PREMIUM SUBSIDY ELIGIBILITY.—Section
2 36B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

3 (4) MEDICAID AND CHIP ELIGIBILITY.—Titles
4 XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act, including
5 under section 1903(v) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
6 1396b(v)).

7 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall take ef-
9 fect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

10 (2) TRANSITION THROUGH SPECIAL ENROLL-
11 MENT PERIOD.—In the case of an individual de-
12 scribed in subsection (a) who, before the first day of
13 the first annual open enrollment period under sub-
14 paragraph (B) of section 1311(c)(6) of the Patient
15 Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C.
16 18031(c)(6)) beginning after the date of the enact-
17 ment of this Act, is granted deferred action de-
18 scribed in subsection (a) and who, as a result of
19 such subsection, qualifies for a subsidy described in
20 paragraph (2) or (3) of such subsection, the Sec-
21 retary of Health and Human Services shall establish
22 a special enrollment period under section
23 1311(c)(6)(C) of such Act during which such indi-
24 vidual may enroll in qualified health plans through
25 Exchanges under title I of such Act and qualify for

1 such a subsidy. For such an individual who has been
2 granted deferred action as of the date of the enact-
3 ment of this Act, such special enrollment period
4 shall begin not later than 90 days after such date
5 of enactment. Nothing in this paragraph shall be
6 construed as affecting the authority of the Secretary
7 to establish additional special enrollment periods
8 under section 1311(c)(6)(C) of the Patient Protec-
9 tion and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C.
10 18031(c)(6)(C)).