



March 1, 2021

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo  
The Honorable Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SB 56 (Durazo)/ AB 4 (Arambula)– SUPPORT

Dear Senator Durazo and Assemblymember Arambula,

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) writes in strong support of Senate Bill 56 and Assembly Bill 4, which would expand Medi-Cal to undocumented older adults 65 and over. CARA is California's largest grassroots advocacy organization, representing over 1 million members through our 300+ affiliated organizations.

Undocumented Californians are facing a health crisis. The Trump administration has separated families, increased deportations, and undermined immigrant communities' access to health care and the safety net. On top of this trauma, COVID-19 has hit undocumented immigrants especially hard, including millions of frontline and essential workers taking on disproportionate risk of exposure. The pandemic has further exacerbated racial and ethnic health disparities and has made it clear that access to comprehensive health care is necessary for every resident of our state, regardless of where they were born. It is especially critical that our state act now to protect the health of seniors, who are the most vulnerable at this time. SB 56 would provide full-scope Medi-Cal to all income-eligible seniors (ages 65+) by removing immigration status as eligibility exclusion.

Seniors are amongst the most vulnerable populations, and at greatest risk of hospitalization and even death as a result of the pandemic. Immigrant seniors are often amongst the lowest income and live in multi-generational households, which can put them at even greater risk.

CARA/ 600 Grand Ave. #410/ Oakland, CA 94610/ 510-663-4086/ [www.californialliance.org](http://www.californialliance.org)

**Healthcare is a human right and all California residents, regardless of immigration status, should have access to care. SB 56 and AB 4 provide care through the Medi-Cal program for our most needy, and most vulnerable residents. For all these reasons, CARA urges support of SB 56 and AB 4.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hene Kelly".

**Hene Kelly  
CARA Legislative Director  
415-533-5244**