

July 15, 2025

The Honorable John Lawn, Chair  
Joint Committee on Health Care Financing

The Honorable Cindy Friedman, Chair  
Joint Committee on Health Care Financing

**Via email:** [John.Lawn@mahouse.gov](mailto:John.Lawn@mahouse.gov); [cindy.friedman@masenate.gov](mailto:cindy.friedman@masenate.gov)

Dear Chair Lawn, Chair Friedman and Members of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing,

The Children's League of Massachusetts (CLM) is a statewide, non-profit organization comprised of children and family services providers and advocates, including individuals with lived experience in foster care. Together with our members, we urge you to support "*An Act to ensure equitable health coverage for children*" (H.1403/S.855), also referred to as, "Cover All Kids." This bill expands full MassHealth coverage to children and young adults whose only barrier to eligibility is immigration status. Cover All Kids helps advance the Commonwealth's goals of promoting health equity and moving towards universal coverage for children.

While Massachusetts is a leader in access to health care, tens of thousands of children and young adults, including children with disabilities, cannot get the health care they need due to their immigration status. While most of these young people have access to safety net programs, such as the Children's Medical Security Plan, Health Safety Net, and/or MassHealth Limited, they have strict limits on covered benefits. Many important services are not covered at all. Further, these programs are confusing for families and providers to navigate.

Limited health care puts additional stress on families who already face health disparities and barriers to linguistically and culturally appropriate care. Inadequate coverage leads to inconsistent care and worse health outcomes for children, impacting their ability to thrive in their homes, schools, and communities. It also impacts the health and wellbeing of the entire family. Major coverage gaps can also result in the use of more expensive care through emergency departments and longer hospital stays.

This bill is needed to help address these issues by removing immigration status as a barrier to MassHealth coverage for children and young adults in the Commonwealth. Twelve other states have already passed similar policies. Massachusetts and New Hampshire are the only remaining New England states that restrict Medicaid eligibility based on immigration status for children of all ages. At



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PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY

a time when federal policy changes are specifically attacking people's access to basic services because of immigration status, Cover All Kids is needed more than ever to ensure the Commonwealth's children retain access to a continuum of care.

Children and families – especially immigrant families – need our support now more than ever. WE urge you to favorably report this legislation and support its passage without delay. Please feel free to contact me with questions or to discuss this important issue further. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rachel Gwaltney  
Executive Director  
Children's League of Massachusetts