



# POLICY & ADVOCACY WORKGROUP UPDATES

## APRIL 2023

### **IL HB 3882**

On April 16th CIMH submitted a witness slip on behalf of this bill. On April 19th the bill passed out of the state Senate Executive Committee. This bill would allow for driver's licenses and state IDs for all.

**Action Alert:** E-mail your state Senator to ask them to support this legislation and [ICIRR's 2023 platform](#).

### **IL HB 2719**

This bill was sponsored by Rep. Avelar and Sen. Peters that would require hospitals to screen uninsured patients to determine their eligibility for health coverage options and financial assistance. See [ICIRR](#) for more information. We directed members to ICIRR's social media platforms for more instructions for submitting witness slips. On April 25th the bill passed out of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

**Action Alert:** E-mail your state Senator to ask them to support this legislation and [ICIRR's 2023 platform](#).

### **New Way Forward Act (HR 2374)**

On March 29th, this [legislation](#) was introduced by Reps. Garcia, Pressley, & Casar. It is designed to dismantle the prison-to-deportation pipeline and offers a blueprint to write systemic racism out of immigration laws as outlined below. A fact sheet can be found [here](#).

- End mandatory detention
- Restore judicial discretion and ends certain summary deportations
- Limit the criminal legal system-to-deportation pipeline
- End racist laws used as the basis for family separation, that funnel immigrants into federal prosecution
- Implement a five-year statute of limitations for removal based on old criminal convictions
- End entanglements between federal immigration enforcement and local law enforcement
- Create an opportunity to come home for people unjustly deported

### **Immigrants' Mental Health Act (H.R. 2480)**

In April 2021, this bill was [re-introduced in the House](#) by Rep. Napolitano (D-Calif.; see [press release](#)) and Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.). This bill directs Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to take steps to address mental health issues among immigrants and CBP agents and officers. It also restricts the sharing of mental health information for use in certain immigration

proceedings. The American Psychological Association voiced support for the bill in 2021 (see [here](#)). There have been no updates on the progress of this legislation since it was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security and the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

## **Asylum Updates**

On March 27th the [CIMH sign-on letter](#) was submitted in opposition to the proposed rule "Circumvention of Lawful Pathways" (a.k.a., Transit Ban rule). We had a total of 8 organizational and 55 individual signatories. Title 42 is set to end on May 11th, with an unclear sense of how Biden's immigration policy agenda will proceed. For more, see this [Axios article](#) and this [WOLA Advocacy for Human Rights in the Americas](#) commentary.

## **DACA**

On April 13th the Biden Administration announced that the Department of Health and Human Services will expand Medicaid and ACA eligibility to DACA recipients ([White House Fact Sheet](#)). It is estimated that this would expand health care coverage for approximately 580,000 DACA recipients (see [AP News](#) and [Politico](#)).

## **Other Updates**

On March 31st [USCIS announced](#) a change in its policy related to gender identity. It will no longer require someone's self-reported gender to match what is listed on their supporting documentation.

On March 25th, the U.S. & Canada officially entered into a "[modified safe third country border agreement](#)." The original 2004 agreement was modified to also apply to people crossing between ports, cutting off the ability to cross through one country and apply for asylum in the other, with some limited exceptions. See this [DHS news release](#) for more information.

We would like to highlight two recent Migration Policy Institute (MPI) Reports that provide important information regarding the increasingly important [role of the courts in immigration policy](#) and the [medical and mental health needs of unaccompanied minors](#).

## **CIMH Policy & Advocacy Workgroup Co-Chairs**

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WANT MORE INFORMATION?

SEE OUR ARCHIVED WORKGROUP UPDATES ON THE CIMH WEBSITE.

JOIN OUR MONTHLY WORKGROUP MEETING ON THE 2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 10-11 A.M. CST.

