

FOREWORD

The Affordable Care Act taking effect this upcoming January has placed health care reform at the center of public consciousness. Yet seemingly absent from the conversation is how our new health care system implicates immigrant communities. This is striking given that an estimated 27 million people will remain uninsured, and among those left out will be immigrants, both legal and undocumented.¹ The trend of excluding undocumented immigrants from publicly funded benefits will continue under the ACA, where they will be prohibited from enrolling in Medicaid and from purchasing health insurance through the state insurance exchanges.² Due to this exclusion, undocumented immigrants are projected to account for 25 percent of the total uninsured population once the ACA takes full effect.³ This impact is all the more salient in light of the fact that health care reform has been couched in rhetoric expressing the need for society to ensure access to the basic needs of those most in need.

Given the precarious situation undocumented immigrants face, studies such as Professor López' is central in not only understanding their health status and access to healthcare, but also providing a new framework in which to understand the relationship between immigration, healthcare, and justice.⁴ We at CLLR are honored in publishing such a timely piece, which ushers in a new era for the journal. In keeping with our mission in disseminating legal knowledge that impacts the Chicano/Latino community and other marginalized groups, we have decided to transition to an electronic open-access format. This format will allow us to keep up with issues most pressing to our community, while reflecting a firm stance that *access* remains vital to what the Chicana/o Latina/o Law Review represents.

Daniel Borca & Arifa Raza
Editors-in-Chief

¹ Stephen Zuckerman, Timothy A. Waidmann, & Emily Lawton, *Undocumented Immigrants, Left Out of Health Reform, Likely to Continue to Grow*, 30 Health Affairs, 1997 (2011).

² Office of Human Services Policy, *The Affordable Care Act: Coverage Implications and Issues for Immigrant Families*, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, 1, 2 (April 2012). <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/11/immigrantaccess/coverage/ib.pdf>

³ See, Buettgens, M., B. Garrett, and J. Holahan, *America Under the Affordable Care Act*, The Urban Institute (Washington D.C. 2010).

⁴ Gerald P. Lopez, *The Health of Undocumented Mexicans in New York City*, 32 Chicana/o/Latina/o L. Rev.1 (2013).

