



Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
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Hon. Marc Miller
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6
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Re: Delivering on a regularization program to advance health and well-being

June 17, 2024

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Miller,

On behalf of the Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS), I am writing to urge you to deliver on your commitment to create a regularization program that provides a path to citizenship for the hundreds of thousands of migrants living in Canada without valid documents.

As Cabinet considers possible approaches, it is essential that the impact of regularizing status on the health and well-being of children and youth is not overlooked. Children and youth do not choose to be migrants. Yet their immigration status and that of their parents directly impacts their ability to access essential healthcare and services, including public health insurance and the Canada Child Benefit. Healthy children need healthy parents. Even in cases where a child has citizenship, their parents' lack of access to services directly impacts their own health and wellness.

Without a path to valid citizenship or permanent residency, population groups that are already amongst the most marginalized are unjustly excluded from many of the programs and services they need most. We know that without public health insurance, children, youth, and their families are less likely to seek or receive necessary health care. No one should be forced to suffer unnecessary, be denied care, or have their health and well-being compromised due to a lack of insurance.

In accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone in Canada has the same fundamental right to health regardless of migration status. Currently undocumented migrant families in Canada are being denied this right. This not only unjustly undermines their life-long health and well-being, but directly impacts public health and overall social and economic prosperity. As such, we strongly urge you to deliver on your government's commitment to regularization and to uphold our international commitments and moral obligations to equitable access to healthcare for all.

Sincerely,

Marie Adèle Davis
Executive Director, CPS