

## **EXHIBIT 23**



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Department of State, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget  
Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs, Office of Visa Services  
Docket Number: DOS-2019-0039

Re: Emergency Submission Comment on Immigrant Health Insurance Coverage

On behalf of Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on *DOS-2019-0039 Notice of Information Collection Under OMB Emergency Review: Immigrant Health Insurance Coverage*.

The proposed changes would deny entry into the US to low-income immigrants without proof of access to insurance or the ability to pay for insurance. This new rule would cause serious harm to the thousands of immigrants coming to the US.

The notion that any new resident of the US could be called a "burden" is inaccurate – our new US residents pay taxes, contribute to civic life and strengthen the very backbone of our country. According to the National Immigration Forum: "[i]mmigrants pay the same taxes we all do — federal income tax, social security tax, Medicare tax, property tax, state income tax, sales tax, and so on. The taxes they pay help to cover federal and state services that benefit communities everywhere. In 2014, immigrants paid an estimated \$328 billion in state, local, and federal taxes. Immigrants paid more than a quarter of all taxes in California, and they paid nearly a quarter of all taxes in New York and New Jersey."

This proposal also fails to recognize that the Medicaid program was created to ensure broader access to health care to those with barriers, as well as to ultimately decrease costs to tax payers by ensuring people are healthy and not utilizing the emergency room. This proposal also fails to recognize that our new residents will be paying into this program as part of their paycheck – and therefore are entitled to access as anyone else.

The proposed rule should be immediately withdrawn. It is misguided and unfairly targets immigrants and low-income families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gil Muñoz". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gil Muñoz  
CEO