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Immigration has become a prime topic of discussion, with the influence of the current government administration of the United States. Many immigrants enter the US fleeing from other countries, in hopes of greater opportunities. While in the United States, many feel the effects of the country's current social-political climate, impacting one's health and well-being.

In areas in Washington such as Yakima County, where about 33% of individuals rely on federal and state healthcare benefits, implications of government policies directly threaten families' ability to receive healthcare.

Many immigrants who come to the United States often work low-paying, laborious, and otherwise excruciating jobs in various fields such as construction, service/hospitality, and agriculture. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the immigrant population makes up about 19.2% of the United States workforce. Working in fields of labor such as construction and agriculture, many lack healthcare through insurance coverage. As of 2023, 50% of likely undocumented immigrants report being uninsured due to working jobs which are less likely to provide insurance coverage.

With insurance instability and financial burden, comes inadequate accessibility to healthcare among immigrant communities. In specific, Hispanic/Latino communities, with large immigrant populations, were diagnosed with liver disease 59% more often than overall adults in the US. Chronic liver disease also accounts for the leading cause of death amongst the Latino community. When many individuals lack accessible healthcare or disregard the issue due to financial strain, the severity becomes imminent.

With less than half of immigrants being covered by some form of health insurance/coverage, implementing systems that provide immigrants, regardless of legal status, access to sustainable healthcare. Programs in Washington state have been set up to offer immigrants, even those who are noncitizens, access to Washington's Medicaid. This program is referred to as "Washington Apple Health" and covers a range of healthcare services and is open to qualifying residents, including immigrants and noncitizens.

Recent political influence from the current presidential administration has passed federal budget laws known as "H. R. 1", a federal bill by the Trump administration which brought shifts to the allocated Medicaid funding in the United States, along with tax breaks and deductions, along with further cuts to other federal and state funding expenditures such as education. Cuts in Medicaid-related funding will bring cuts to Apple Health in Washington State and around 320,000 are projected to lose Medicaid coverage in the State of Washington. Cuts in Medicaid expenditures will greatly impact rural areas, especially those with larger immigrant populations

like my own. Being from Sunnyside, a small-rural farming town located in Central/Eastern Washington, a town with a large immigrant population of 33%, with over 48.8% on Medicaid, cuts to the program will most greatly affect those who reside here and rely on state and federal programs for healthcare coverage.

While federal implications are being felt nationwide, representatives in Olympia, Washington are fighting for extensions in the Apple Health program for immigrants, even those who are undocumented. HB 1482, which is a proposed bill that would extend the funding for the Apple Health program from the upcoming fiscal year. The bill, which was proposed by Democratic, Washington State Representative My-Linh Thai and other supporting representatives, aims to do just that. It is initiatives like these from government officials that pave the way to a more equality-focused healthcare system that recognizes and supports every individual, regardless of citizenship status.

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