

May 23, 2024

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Marc Miller, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
minister@cic.gc.ca

Re: Canadian Medical Association supports the establishment of a regularization program for Canada's most vulnerable populations.

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Miller,

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) to express our ongoing concern regarding the state of health care coverage for refugees in Canada. As a family doctor, I directly witness the impact of discrimination within the immigration and refugee system, particularly in terms of access to healthcare.

In 2015, the CMA addressed your government in a letter, emphasizing the medical community's concern with the state of health care coverage for refugees in Canada. The CMA continues to enthusiastically stand with the resounding call for full and permanent immigration status for all migrants, including undocumented individuals.

It is essential to acknowledge that individuals lacking legal status, especially racialized refugees and migrants, women, and those identifying as 2SLGBTQIA+, face disproportionate health inequities. These individuals are our patients, colleagues, neighbours, friends, and fellow citizens who deserve better.

Currently, there are nearly half a million undocumented individuals in the country with inadequate health care coverage. Implementing regularization would enable Canada to fulfill its international obligation to provide access to fundamental human rights, including healthcare, regardless of immigration status.

We urge your government to honor its longstanding commitment by establishing an immigration status regularization program. The CMA welcomes the opportunity to work with you to drive change and ensure our most vulnerable are treated with respect. Together, let's pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable society.

Yours sincerely,



Kathleen Ross, MD, MSc, MCFP
President, Canadian Medical Association

Cc: Hon. Mark Holland, Minister of Health
