



POLICY ALERT

Center for Public Policy Priorities

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U.S. House Bill Could Make it Harder for Immigrants to Obtain Safety Net Services

On Thursday, December 15, we expect the U.S. House of Representatives to vote on the "Border Security and Terrorism Prevention Act" (H.R. 4437). The bill includes some very harmful provisions, while making no attempt to address comprehensive immigration reform.

Of special concern from CPPP's perspective, HR 4437 threatens to reverse current federal law that protects safety net providers of health care, hunger aid, shelter, disaster relief and other safety net services from having to screen out or discriminate against undocumented persons.

Because H.R. 4437 apparently allows the government to prosecute almost anyone who has regular contact with an undocumented person, it would impose a terrible burden on safety net providers and undermine their ability to protect life and safety. Texas is home to an estimated 1.4 million undocumented persons, mostly adult workers, but including about 230,000 children. We urge you to learn more about this bill.

For more information on H.R. 4437 and how to voice your opinion, visit the National Immigration Forum's website at:

<http://www.immigrationforum.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=654>

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