

# LIFT THE BAR ACT



Restoring Public Benefits Access for Lawfully Present Immigrants

Core to American values is making sure children and families can meet their basic needs – seeing a doctor when they’re sick, putting food on the table, and getting support to help children grow and thrive. But since 1996, federal laws have restricted many lawfully present immigrants’ access to essential programs, and last year’s **H.R. 1 (“OBBBA”)** added even more barriers for lawfully present immigrants who are otherwise eligible for help.

These restrictions don’t change families’ needs or immigration options – they simply block access to health care, nutrition assistance, and other basic services that are crucial to working families, and to state and local economies.

**We’re calling on Congress to pass the Lifting Immigrant Families Through Benefits Access Restoration (LIFT the BAR) Act, which would:**



**Restore federal benefits eligibility for lawfully present immigrants**, including LPRs (green card holders), people with DACA or SIJS, and other authorized noncitizens.



**Rescind H.R. 1/ “OBBBA” provisions** that bar many lawfully present immigrants-- including refugees and asylees-- from accessing public benefits.



**Restore state and local flexibility** to use their own funds to provide benefits to immigrants.



**Eliminate the five-year bar** for Medicaid, CHIP, SNAP, TANF, and SSI.



**Modernize Eligibility Conditions** by ensuring applicants are assessed based on their own incomes, not other’s.



**Preempt additional state restrictions** on otherwise eligible immigrants.

**Making these common sense changes to benefit eligibility has strong support:**

- During its last introduction, more than 750 national, state and local organizations joined PIF in supporting the LIFT the BAR Act.
- Last year, nearly 700 groups opposed the immigrant eligibility restrictions in H.R. 1.

**For more information, contact:**

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