

MISSION

To educate and mobilize League members to work toward legislation and other reforms that enact the goals of our LWVUS health care position, with a strong focus on [expanded and improved Medicare for All](#).

LWV National Interest Groups Explore Topics to Tackle Together

LWV national Interest Groups, Health Care Reform and Immigration, have organized a joint webinar in search of a potential joint action. We've been looking at healthcare through an immigration lens and immigration through a health care lens. Fortunately, both perspectives have

materials to help us prepare to cross disciplinary lines, such as dedicated units within trusted information sources like [KFF](#) and [National Immigration Law Center \(NILC\)](#) among others, that work at the intersection of our topics.

Both areas are currently at high URGENCY — across the country and within the [Action framework](#) of the League — fomented by narratives of immigrants as criminals running amok and them using health care resources [at the expense of "real" Americans](#). Such beliefs ignore solid evidence against them:

1. Immigrants are [less likely](#) than native born Americans to commit criminal acts.
2. Immigrants, including the "undocumented," are net contributors to public healthcare resources: they work and pay taxes that support programs they are barred from accessing, [thus paying for others' care](#).

In immigration, urgency is kept elevated by the criminalizing innocent people, who can become criminals without making a move. One strategy is to decree sudden policy changes that [remove protected status](#) or [revoke visas](#) with a single signature. As the story goes, if you are protecting the public from the "the worst of

the worst," you must defend yourself from their violence, and so arrests take on the look and feel of [ongoing SWAT raids](#). However, DHS's own data tell us that at most [8%](#) of people in their custody have been convicted of violent

crimes. Most detainees have either no charges against them or they have [civil infractions](#), often decades old, that normally carry fines or lost privileges as remedies. But now, both civil and criminal are in the same dragnet. Hard data show that at least 1 in 2, maybe 3 in 4, immigration arrests are unjustified, so citizens began [organizing into rapid response networks](#) to protect neighbors from unwarranted arrest. These allies are now being [labeled "domestic terrorists"](#) and are also subject to violent assault.

In healthcare, misguided responses to imagined dangers from immigrants carry less firepower, but are no less tragic. Beyond the death toll and suffering of those swept up in the violence, children especially will suffer lasting [effects of the collective trauma](#). [Cutting out 20%](#) of our healthcare workforce, [from orderlies to physicians](#), compounds the collateral damage.

So, what projects do the combined lenses of our two fields suggest? Come help us open the conversation to envision what we might accomplish — individually and together — to Defend our Democracy and heal our communities. Submitted by Barbara Pearson

You're invited!

Sponsored by LWV-US Immigration and Healthcare Discussion Groups

Recent Legislation and Policy Changes Are Impacting Healthcare

Practice and Access For Immigrants and Their Families.

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

4:15 pm (Pacific) 5:15 pm (Mountain)
6:15 pm (Central) 7:15 pm (Eastern)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/>

No pre-registration required.



Dr. Triveni DeFries

Director, UCSF Human Rights Institute

Ben D'Avanzo

NILC Strategist for Health/Economic Policy

Discussion:

- Their organizations
- Migrant healthcare needs
- Policy changes



In Case You Missed It

Dec. 14 — HCR4US meeting [video](#) and [audio](#) and [minutes and supplementary materials](#) with Action Links

Jan. 6 — Robert Hawks posted a [poem](#) on Facebook “I Did Not Ask for Greenland”

Upcoming

Jan. 22 9:45 a.m. ET — US House Committee on [Energy & Commerce](#) has called 5 health insurance CEOs to testify about health care affordability.

Jan. 27 7:30 p.m. ET — PNHP NY Metro hosts “[The Healthcare Affordability Crisis](#)”

Feb. 4 7:15 p.m. ET LWV HCR4US and Immigration Interest Groups present “[Recent Legislation and Policy Changes Are Impacting Healthcare](#)”

Feb. 25 5:00 p.m. ET — LWV Alachua County Healthcare Committee hosts “[The Science Behind Vaccine Requirements](#)” with speakers Dr. Fred Southwick and Dr. Paul Offitt. Zoom Link [here](#).

Newsletter Feedback

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Networking

One Payer States

<https://www.onepayerstates.org/>

National Single Payer

<https://nationalsinglepayer.com/>

Healthcare Advocacy on Substack

[Here's the link.](#)

Physicians for a Nat'l Health Program

<https://pnhp.org/>

Center for Medicare Advocacy

<https://www.MedicareAdvocacy.org>

HCR4US Websites

HCR4US Toolkit:

<https://lwvhealthcarereform.org>

HCR4US Youtube Channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/c/
LWVHealthCareReform](https://www.youtube.com/c/LWVHealthCareReform)

HCR4US Web-Contact Form:

tinyurl.com/Contact-LWV-HCR-4US

League Update Newsletter Sign Up:

[https://www.lwv.org/league-management/
league-update-newsletter-sign](https://www.lwv.org/league-management/league-update-newsletter-sign)

Article Archive

Recent Articles of Interest Related to Healthcare Reform

Hold down the CTRL key and click on the hyperlinks to access the articles.

Jan. 17, 2026 [Business Insider](#)

“ACA Health Insurance Enrollment Dropped by 1.4 Million. See Which States Had the Biggest Swings”

By Allie Kelly

“Low- and middle-income Americans are facing higher health insurance costs after subsidy loss. Experts warn of further ACA enrollment declines as households begin receiving medical bills.”

Jan. 16, 2026 [KFF Kaiser Family Foundation](#)

“The ‘Great Healthcare Plan’ Leaves Open Questions for People with Pre-existing Conditions”

By Cynthia Cox

“The president’s plan is vague ... The framework does not explicitly say people with pre-existing conditions are protected.” (Also, *Drew Altman’s [column](#) “Trump Has No Health Plan, He Has the Art of the Health Care Deal”*)

Jan. 6, 2026 [Health Justice Monitor](#)

“With Medicaid and ACA Cuts, Counties Face Daunting Care Challenge”

By Don McCanne

“With huge reductions in federal funding for health insurance programs, leading to a surge in the uninsured, local jurisdictions in many states will be required to fill the gap. This poses massive, highly burdensome or infeasible funding challenges.”

Jan. 6, 2026 [LA Progressive](#)

“Keeping People With Their Pets Will Help L.A.’s Housing Crisis — and Mental Health”

By Elizabeth Aguilera

“Social worker Jackie Parra intervenes at L.A.’s busiest animal shelter to help people in crisis keep their pets and housing.”

Preparing for LWVUS Convention 2026: Privatization Update Concurrence

The new New York initiative includes: (1) adding “fiduciary duty to the public” in its best practice requirements (2) adding accountability, including de-privatization for failing fiduciary duty (3) adding healthcare to its list of “public goods” and (4) opposing further privatization of health care, our most privatized public good.

WHAT TO DO: Read and pass along to your local League president [this document](#) which explains the concurrence and how to include it in the biennial [LWVUS Program Planning Survey](#). There is even the exact wording that can be used. The deadline for presidents to submit the survey is **March 10**.

[Email our hotline](#) to report progress or to ask questions!