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Statement on Biden Administration's action to expand healthcare coverage to DACA recipients

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NORWALK, Calif. – May 7, 2024 – On May 3, President Biden announced a landmark decision, finalizing a rule that will expand healthcare access for eligible Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. This rule will allow DACA recipients to enroll in Affordable Care Act coverage, a significant step toward their health equity and well-being. Under this rule, DACA recipients will be able to apply for coverage through HealthCare.gov and state-based marketplaces, potentially qualifying for financial assistance to secure quality health insurance. For the first time, this rule lifts the prohibition on DACA recipients' eligibility for Affordable Care Act coverage, benefiting over 100,000 young people.

Cerritos College President/Superintendent Dr. Jose Fierro and the Board of Trustees issued the following statement:

"This rule marks a significant milestone - the rightful access to healthcare for DACA recipients. This is not just a policy change; it's a testament to our commitment to public health and the well-being of our communities. We've witnessed firsthand how many DACA recipients have had to defer their education or forgo pursuing a college degree because they needed to work to pay for healthcare. With access to affordable healthcare, a brighter future is within their reach. Our students can pursue more ambitious goals with the support of a college education, knowing their healthcare needs are met. By prioritizing the health of DACA students, we are paving the way for a healthier, more resilient community and a stronger economy."

About Cerritos College: Cerritos College serves as a comprehensive community college for southeastern Los Angeles County. Communities within the college's district include Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs, and South Gate. Cerritos College offers nearly 300 degree and certificate programs in nine divisions. Annually, more than 5,000 students successfully complete their course of studies. Enrollment currently averages 21,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at <http://www.cerritos.edu/>.

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