



Pre Health Dreamers

BIG THINGS HAVE DETERMINED BEGINNINGS...

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Dear coordinators and decision-makers of nursing programs and clinical sites;

Pre-Health Dreamers (PHD) is disheartened to learn that clinical sites and nursing programs are blocking undocumented students from completing their program solely due to their immigration status. PHD wants to ensure that hospital and clinical site decision-makers understand the California laws and policies that have been put in place to aid undocumented students in pursuing health-related careers, specifically nursing.

CA policies currently promote the success of undocumented students in higher education, and PHD asks that programs implement them to ensure undocumented students do not hit roadblocks that have already been cleared for them by the state of CA.

To support the PHD community, we ask all nursing programs and clinical sites in CA to create welcoming admission requirements and processes for undocumented students. Clinical sites closing their doors to undocumented students without a social security number goes against CA policies and inadvertently pushes nursing programs to block undocumented students solely due to their undocumented status.

California Education Code § 66270 (added by S.B. 183 (Lara, 2018)) provides that "any program or activity conducted by any postsecondary educational institution that received, or benefits from, state financial assistance or enrolls students who receive state student financial aid" including nursing programs are prohibited from denying admission to applicants because of their immigration status.

California law prohibits hospitals and clinical sites from denying undocumented nursing students admission to unpaid "healing arts" training programs because of their "immigration status." S.B. 1139 § 2, Cal Bus. & Prof. Code § 2064.4(a). Nursing falls within the broad meaning of the term "healing arts," which, as used in the Business and Professions Code, includes nurses, dentists, and other healthcare professionals in addition to physicians. See generally, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code, Div. 2. This law also protects students that do not hold a Social Security Number.



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We ask that clinical sites connect with their nursing program partners to reevaluate their policies and processes to reflect CA law and avoid policies that deny access to undocumented students, such as requiring a Social Security Number. Please note that background checks can be completed without a Social Security Number.

PHD recommends that programs partner with background check companies that have established such practices and inquire with current partners to see if they have such procedures in place. PHD looks forward to working with you to ensure that CA nursing programs meet the fundamental goals of equity and inclusion. We appreciate your support in this action.

Please contact Yadira Ortiz, Executive Director, for more information at yadi@phdreamers.org.

In union,

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