

in *Sale* related to § 1253(d) of the INA. The Supreme Court’s discussion of § 1182(f), therefore, was *dicta*.

The Supreme Court directly analyzed the President’s authority under § 1182(f) in *Hawaii*. Again, however, the Supreme Court did not specifically address the nondelegation doctrine. The Supreme Court noted the “comprehensive delegation” of authority in § 1182(f) and that § 1182(f) “exudes deference” to the President. *Hawaii*, 138 S. Ct. at 2408. That case involved the President’s proclamation resulting in the “travel” or “Muslim” ban. That proclamation “sought to improve vetting procedures by identifying ongoing deficiencies in the information needed to assess whether nationals of particular countries present ‘public safety threats’” and “placed entry restrictions on the nationals of eight foreign states whose systems for managing and sharing information about their nationals the President deemed inadequate.” *Id.* at 2404. It “reflect[ed] the results of a worldwide review process undertaken by multiple Cabinet officials and their agencies.” *Id.* at 2421. In discussing the sufficiency of the President’s findings under § 1182(f), the Supreme Court quoted *Sale* regarding the deference given to a President in his “chosen method” for dealing with foreign relations problems and stated that “when the President adopts ‘a preventive measure . . . in the context of international affairs and national security,’ he is ‘not required to conclusively link all of the pieces in the puzzle before [courts] grant weight to [his] empirical conclusions.’” *Id.* at 2409 (quoting *Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project*, 561 U.S. 1, 35 (2010)).

In evaluating the nondelegation issues raised by § 1182(f), the Court considers what these three cases addressing the authority granted to the President in § 1182(f) and a similar earlier provision instruct. *Knauff* does not support the conclusion that the current version of § 1182(f) does not present any nondelegation issues. *Knauff* involved a much narrower delegation of

authority, only in time of war or national emergency. The discussion in *Knauff* regarding immigration involving both executive and legislative power, although not limited to times of war or national emergency, was focused on the President's authority to govern "foreign affairs." The proclamation in *Knauff* was also issued during a time of war, when the President's authority is at its zenith. *Sale* involved several issues relating to foreign affairs in an emergency and extraterritorial context. These included the diplomatic concerns in trying to restore a democratic government in Haiti and concerns regarding the lives of tens of thousands of Haitians, most of whom were not going to qualify for refugee status, who were risking their lives attempting to travel by boat to the United States in dangerous crafts. This was a political and humanitarian emergency occurring beyond the borders of the United States. *Hawaii* also involved important issues of national security and foreign affairs. The proclamation at issue was an attempt to enhance detection of "terrorists" and other similar "public safety threats." 138 S. Ct. at 2404-05. It also involved activities occurring beyond the borders of the United States, because it dealt with vetting processes taking place in foreign countries.

The Court extrapolates from these cases that when Congress delegates authority to the President in the immigration context and that authority involves foreign relations or national security, especially in an emergency or extraterritorial context, then the nondelegation concerns are lessened because the President has his own inherent powers under Article I. That appears to be the intent of Congress in enacting the broad authority of § 1182(f). It also appears to be how § 1182(f) has been previously exercised, until now.⁴ The Proclamation, however, uses § 1182(f) to engage in *domestic* policymaking, without addressing any foreign relations or national

⁴ Based on the proclamations discussed by the parties. The Court did not conduct an independent review of all proclamations issued under § 1182(f) or earlier, similar provisions.

security issue or emergency. In this wholly domestic context, the delegation by Congress is without any intelligible principle and thus fails under the nondelegation doctrine.

Defendants argue that because immigrants come from foreign countries, anything to do with immigration is inherently “foreign relations.” The Court, however, does not accept such a broad construction. As the text of Article I and more than two centuries of legislative practice and judicial precedent make clear, the Constitution vests Congress, not the President, with the power to set immigration policy. If the fact that immigrants come from other countries inherently made their admission foreign relations subject to the President’s Article II power, then all of this law would be superfluous.

3. Separation of Powers

Even if the Proclamation is not an unconstitutional exercise of domestic lawmaking authority under the nondelegation doctrine, it would still be unconstitutional under separation of powers. Plaintiffs contend that the Proclamation is an unconstitutional attempt to rewrite a key provision of the INA through “executive fiat.” Plaintiffs argue that they are likely to succeed on their claims that the President’s exercise of his discretion in issuing the Proclamation violates the Constitution’s bedrock principle of separation of powers because the Proclamation contravenes or overrides specific provisions of the INA.

Defendants respond that this claim is not a constitutional claim, but a statutory claim that the Proclamation was issued outside the President’s authority delegated by Congress in § 1182(f) of the INA. Whether the claim is evaluated as a statutory claim or a constitutional separation of powers claim, the result is the same. The Supreme Court has stated that when the President exercises his authority under § 1182(f), the Court “may assume that § 1182(f) does not allow the President to expressly override particular provisions of the INA.” *Hawaii*, 138 S. Ct. at 2411.

Thus, if the Proclamation contravenes a provision of the INA, it is both a statutory violation and a constitutional violation of separation of powers.

The constitutional principle of separation of powers embodies “the central judgment of the Framers of the Constitution that, within our political scheme, the separation of governmental powers into three coordinate Branches is essential to the preservation of liberty.” *Mistretta v. United States*, 488 U.S. 361, 380 (1989). Separation-of-powers concerns are primarily aimed at preventing aggrandizement by one branch encroaching into the sphere of authority of another. *Id.* at 382 (“It is this concern of encroachment and aggrandizement that has animated our separation-of-powers jurisprudence[.]”); *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1, 122 (1976) (*per curiam*) (“The Framers regarded the checks and balances that they had built into the tripartite Federal Government as a self-executing safeguard against the encroachment or aggrandizement of one branch at the expense of the other.”). Accordingly, the Supreme Court has “not hesitated to strike down provisions of law that either accrete to a single Branch powers more appropriately diffused among separate Branches or that undermine the authority and independence of one or another coordinate Branch.” *Mistretta*, 488 U.S. at 382.

“The Constitution and its history evidence the ‘unmistakable expression of a determination that legislation by the national Congress be a step-by-step, deliberate and deliberative process.’” *City & Cty. of San Francisco v. Trump*, 897 F.3d 1225, 1232 (9th Cir. 2018) (quoting *I.N.S. v. Chadha*, 462 U.S. 919, 959 (1983)). Thus, “[t]he power to enact statutes may only ‘be exercised in accord with a single, finely wrought and exhaustively considered, procedure.’” *Clinton v. City of New York*, 524 U.S. 417, 439-40 (1998) (quoting *Chadha*, 462 U.S. at 951). Further, “[t]here is no provision in the Constitution that authorizes the President to enact, to amend, or to repeal statutes.” *Clinton*, 524 U.S. at 438.

The President issued the Proclamation purportedly based on authority granted to him by Congress in § 1182(f) of the INA. The President may not, however, exercise his discretion granted under § 1182(f) to “override” a provision of the INA. *Hawaii*, 138 S. Ct. at 2411. Thus, the primary question is whether the Proclamation overrides, contravenes, or is otherwise incompatible with any provision of the INA. As explained by Justice Jackson in his concurrence in *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer*:

When the President takes measures incompatible with the expressed or implied will of Congress, his power is at its lowest ebb, for then he can rely only upon his own constitutional powers minus any constitutional powers of Congress over the matter. Courts can sustain exclusive presidential control in such a case only by disabling the Congress from acting upon the subject. Presidential claim to a power at once so conclusive and preclusive must be scrutinized with caution, for what is at stake is the equilibrium established by our constitutional system.

343 U.S. 579, 637-38 (1952) (Jackson, J., concurring); *see also Zivotofsky ex rel. Zivotofsky v. Kerry*, 135 S. Ct. 2076, 2083 (2015) (“In considering claims of Presidential power this Court refers to Justice Jackson’s familiar tripartite framework from *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer*, 343 U.S. 579, 635-638 (1952) (concurring opinion).”).

Plaintiffs assert that the Proclamation conflicts with 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(4), the “public charge” provision of the INA. Plaintiffs argue that the Proclamation impermissibly establishes healthcare insurance as the sole factor determining inadmissibility based on creating a “financial burden” to the United States, even though the public charge provision directly legislates inadmissibility based on the concern of creating a financial burden on the United States. The public charge provision enumerates a list of factors that *must* be considered “at a minimum” in evaluating whether a visa applicant will become a public charge, including: age; health; family status; assets, resources, and financial status; and education and skills, and the consular officer

also may consider whether an affidavit of support was filed. 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(4)(B)(i)-(ii). These factors were expressly added to the INA by Congress in 1996.

Before the 1996 legislation was passed, some legislators proposed having public charge inadmissibility tied to the receipt of certain non-cash public benefits, but that effort failed. These non-cash benefits included Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, supplemental nutrition assistance, and other means-tested public assistance. *See* H.R. Rep. 104-469, 89. In 2013, the U.S. Senate voted down two proposed amendments to the public charge provision. One would have expanded the criteria for public charge to include the requirement that visa applicants show that they were not likely to receive benefits under Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program. *See* S. Rep. No. 113-40, at 42 (2013); *see also City and Cty. of San Francisco v. U.S. Citizenship and Immig. Svcs.* (“USCIS”), --- F. Supp. 3d ---, 2019 WL 5100718, at * 25 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 11, 2019). The second would have expanded the definition of “public charge” to ensure that persons who received non-cash health benefits could not become permanent legal residents and that visa applicants who would be likely to receive such benefits in the future would be denied entry. *See* S. Rep. No. 113-40, at 63 (2013); *see also USCIS*, 2019 WL 5100718, at *26.

The public charge provision as amended in 1996 mandates that the consular officer or the Attorney General “shall at a minimum consider” *all* of the enumerated factors. 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(4)(B)(i). This codified the longstanding practice of evaluating the “totality of the circumstances” of the applicant. *USCIS*, 2019 WL 5100718, at *21, 25. That subsection ensures that no one single factor is dispositive.

Defendants argue that the Proclamation does not contravene or supplant the public charge provision, but instead merely supplements it. Defendants argue that the focus of the

Proclamation is not on whether on an applicant will become a public charge, but on fixing the burden to the healthcare infrastructure *and* taxpayers. Defendants note that a visa applicant now must meet the requirements of both the public charge provision of the INA and the Proclamation. Defendants' arguments are not persuasive.

The Proclamation discusses the burden on the national healthcare infrastructure and its effect on American taxpayers. The Proclamation supplants § 1182(a)(4)(B), however, because it is designed to stop immigrants from being a burden on taxpayers by using public resources such as Medicaid, subsidized ACA plans, and free emergency room and medical services. This is the purview of the public charge provision. Additionally, the primary concern of the Proclamation is the burden on taxpayers and not the burden on private industry. The Proclamation states: "Immigrants who enter this country should not further saddle our healthcare system, and subsequently American taxpayers, with higher costs." This also is the purview of the public charge provision.

The Proclamation does not create an additional factor, health insurance, to be considered in the totality of the circumstances that Congress has mandated be considered in evaluating whether a visa applicant will create an undue burden on the resources of the United States. Instead, it makes the ability to pay for anticipated care needs a single, dispositive factor, first by requiring an assessment of the applicant's available health insurance, a new factor, and then by requiring an assessment only of the applicant's health and financial resources, which are two of many factors that Congress has mandated must *all* be considered.

Moreover, the Proclamation is executive lawmaking in a manner that Congress expressly rejected in the public charge provision. The Proclamation excludes in its permissible insurance plans mean-tested health benefits such as Medicaid and subsidized plans under the ACA,

notwithstanding the fact that Congress has repeatedly refused to include Medicaid and other mean-tested non-cash public benefits in the public charge inadmissibility standards. *See Youngstown*, 343 U.S. at 588 (“[T]he President’s order does not direct that a congressional policy be executed in a manner prescribed by Congress—it directs that a presidential policy be executed in a manner prescribed by the President.”); *cf. Hawaii*, 138 S. Ct. at 2411 (finding that the travel ban executive order “supports Congress’s individualized approach for determining admissibility”). The Proclamation does not, therefore, support the INA’s approach for determining admissibility but instead essentially amends or supplants the INA in a manner similar to which Congress has previously refused, contravening Congress’s will.

The Proclamation also purports to “impose on the entry of aliens [a] restriction[]” the President deems necessary under § 1182(f). In effect, however, it actually bars entry from an entire class of immigrants—those who cannot afford health insurance or afford to pay for reasonably necessary medical costs. There are two problems with this restriction.

The first problem is that this bar to entry is not a “suspension” as is authorized by § 1182(f), but is indefinite. The President expressly cites the reason for the suspension as the widespread problem of “uncompensated costs” in the nationwide healthcare system. There is no reasonable interpretation of the Proclamation showing that this intractable problem is going to end any time soon, particularly when the only evidence in the record supports that recent immigrant use of medical services is less than one-tenth of one percent. The Proclamation, therefore, is unlikely to make any meaningful difference to address the problem and its implementation will not result in a reduction to the problem that would then, in turn, result in the restriction no longer being necessary. Moreover, the President provides no guidance in the Proclamation for determining under what circumstances the necessity for the Proclamation

would be over. This is unlike the travel ban Proclamation, which involved specific deficiencies in a handful of country’s vetting systems that triggered that proclamation—if those deficiencies all were cured, that proclamation would no longer be needed. *See Hawaii*, 138 S. Ct. at 2410 (“[T]he Proclamation makes clear that its ‘conditional restrictions’ will remain in force only so long as necessary to ‘address’ the identified ‘inadequacies and risks’ within the covered nations.”). The restrictions to entry were directly connected to the problem that triggered that proclamation and there were identifiable solutions that would result in the revocation of the suspension to entry. Here, the identified “inadequacies and risks” are a massive, estimated \$35 billion-per-year domestic systemic health care problem. That is the “triggering condition.” The Supreme Court held in *Hawaii* that a proclamation may be a proper “suspension” of entry so long as in the proclamation the President “may link the duration of those restrictions, implicitly or explicitly, to the resolution of the triggering condition.” *Id.* at 2410. The Proclamation, however, contains no guidance for how this domestic problem of \$35 billion in “uncompensated costs” can or will be solved any time in the foreseeable future. Thus, despite the fact that the President instructs in the Proclamation for a report on the “continued necessity” of the “suspension and limitation” contained in the Proclamation within 180 days and then annually thereafter, that instruction may not reasonably be interpreted as providing any possible foreseeable end date. Therefore, the Proclamation may not reasonably be interpreted as imposing merely “conditional restrictions.” It may only reasonably be interpreted as a categorical exclusion for any affected immigrant who cannot afford health insurance or reasonably anticipated medical costs. Such an indefinite bar to entry is not within the President’s authority under § 1182(f). *See Hawaii*, 138 S. Ct. at 2409-10.

The second problem is that this bar to entry is reinstating a bar that Congress expressly eliminated from the INA—the bar to “paupers.” In the 1891 amendment to the immigration law, Congress provided that: “That the following classes of aliens shall be excluded from admission into the United States . . . : All idiots, insane persons, paupers or persons likely to become a public charge” An Act in Amendment to the Various Acts Relative to Immigration and the Importation of Aliens Under Contract or Agreement to Perform Labor, 26 Stat. 1084, Chap. 551 § 1 (1891). “Paupers” continued to be included in the classes of aliens that were excluded for decades. Congress, however, expressly removed, among others, “paupers” from the categories of aliens excluded from § 1182 in the 1990 amendments to the INA. *See* Immigration Act of 1990, 104 Stat. 4978, Title 6 § 601 (1990).⁵ The President simply does not have the constitutional authority to amend a statute. *Clinton*, 524 U.S. at 438.

The Proclamation also contravenes and overrides § 1182(a)(4)(E).⁶ Congress exempted from the public charge financial burden restriction certain victims of violent crime or domestic violence and their family members. The Proclamation does not provide the same broad exemption. Defendants argue that very few applicants will actually fall within the exemption of § 1182(a)(4)(E) and be effected by the Proclamation, but nonetheless at least some will.⁷ The

⁵ Whether the United States should categorically exclude “paupers” from entry as immigrants is a policy decision that Congress may make in its law-making capacity, using its “step-by-step, deliberate and deliberative process,” *Chadha*, 462 U.S. at 959, and its “single, finely wrought and exhaustively considered, procedure.” *Clinton*, 524 U.S. at 439-40 (quotation marks omitted). Such decisions are not for the President to make in his law-executing capacity, particularly when Congress has already explicitly rejected that categorical exclusion.

⁶ The Court expresses no opinion at this stage of the litigation about whether the Proclamation also contravenes or overrides various healthcare laws and other immigration laws and provisions, as argued by Plaintiffs.

⁷ Defendants also argue that no named Plaintiffs falls within the category of persons affected by this subsection, but Plaintiffs are seeking in this putative class action a uniform injunctive remedy that would apply to all putative class members, and are not requesting any

Proclamation stands in direct contravention to a statute passed by Congress after Congress’s “exhaustively considered,” *Clinton*, 524 U.S. at 439-40, and “deliberate and deliberative process.” *Chadha*, 462 U.S. at 959.

The Proclamation is anticipated to affect approximately 60 percent of all immigrant visa applicants. The President offers no national security or foreign relations justification for this sweeping change in immigration law. Instead, the President attempts to justify the Proclamation based on an asserted burden to the United States healthcare system and federal taxpayers. Whether a visa applicant is a burden on the resources of the United States and, thus, taxpayers, however, is precisely the sphere governed by § 1182(a)(4).

Further, the Proclamation is, significantly, unlike the executive order at issue in *Hawaii*. In that case, the executive order was challenged as being inconsistent with a completely different provision of the INA, § 1152(a)(1)(A), and the Supreme Court found that the two provisions “operate in different spheres.” 138 S. Ct. at 2414. The Proclamation, however, contravenes two provisions of § 1182(a)(4), which operate in the same sphere as § 1182(f). Indeed, it has been noted that “[t]he President’s sweeping proclamation power thus provides a safeguard against the danger posed by any particular case or class of cases that *is not covered* by one of the categories in section 1182(a).” *Abourezk v. Reagan*, 785 F.2d 1043, 1049 n.2 (D.C. Cir. 1986 (Ginsburg, J.) (emphasis added).

The Court finds that § 1182(a)(4) and 1182(f) are in the same sphere. Congress has already spoken in § 1182(a)(4) on the issue of limiting immigrant admissibility based on the potential financial burden on the resources of the United States, and the Proclamation

specific relief under the Violence Against Women Act or § 1182(a)(4)(E). At this stage of the litigation, the Court is treating Plaintiffs as adequate class representatives for all putative class members. *See* Section D, *infra*.

contravenes and overrides Congress’s explicitly stated direction and will. As previously stated, the President may not take action to “enact, to amend, or to repeal statutes.” *Clinton*, 524 U.S. at 438. Plaintiffs, therefore, have shown a likelihood of success on the merits on their claim that the Proclamation violates the Constitution’s principle of separation of powers and is outside the scope of the President’s authority granted in § 1182(f). Because the Court finds that Plaintiffs have shown a likelihood of success on the merits of this claim (as well as serious questions going to the merits) and their argument that the Proclamation violates the nondelegation doctrine, the Court does not at this time reach Plaintiffs’ due process challenge to the Proclamation or challenges to agency action under the APA.

B. Likelihood of Irreparable Harm

“A plaintiff seeking preliminary relief must ‘demonstrate that irreparable injury is likely in the absence of an injunction.’” *California v. Azar*, 911 F.3d 558, 581 (9th Cir. 2018) (quoting *Winter*, 555 U.S. at 22). “A threat of irreparable harm is sufficiently immediate to warrant preliminary injunctive relief if the plaintiff ‘is likely to suffer irreparable harm before a decision on the merits can be rendered.’” *Boardman v. Pac. Seafood Grp.*, 822 F.3d 1011, 1023 (9th Cir. 2016) (quoting *Winter*, 555 U.S. at 22).

Defendants argue that Plaintiffs will not suffer irreparable harm because their family members’ visas will only be “delayed.” The Ninth Circuit already has rejected a very similar argument. *See Hawaii v. Trump*, 878 F.3d 662, 699 (9th Cir. 2017) (“*Hawaii III*”), *rev’d on other grounds and remanded*, 138 S. Ct. 2392 (2018) (holding that the immigrant family member plaintiffs’ claims of “prolonged separation from family members” constituted “indefinite delay” sufficient to satisfy irreparable harm to support preliminary injunction); *Washington*, 847 F.3d at 1169 (identifying “separated families” as among the substantial and irreparable harms); *cf. Moore v. City of E. Cleveland, Ohio*, 431 U.S. 494, 503-04 (1977) (explaining that “the

Constitution protects the sanctity of the family precisely because the institution of the family is deeply rooted in this Nation’s history and tradition”).

Rejection of Defendants’ argument is particularly appropriate in this case. At least two named Plaintiffs had interviews scheduled that were postponed due to the Proclamation. It is likely that those interviews will be rescheduled before a decision on the merits. Those Plaintiffs are not likely to meet the requirements of the Proclamation, and there is no indication that they will otherwise fail any of the requirements of § 1182(a). One of those Plaintiffs risks having his wife’s I601-A waiver automatically revoked if she is denied a visa at the interview. She will be unable to return to the United States and live with him and their son. She takes care of both of them, who suffer from health problems. Other Plaintiffs also have I601-A waivers for their sponsored family members, who risk being forced to leave the United States for an indefinite period of time. These are immigrant applicants for whom it has already been determined it would be an “extreme hardship” on family members for them to be separated.

Defendants also argue that Plaintiffs can avoid harm simply by purchasing insurance. Plaintiffs, however, have stated that they cannot afford the plans that are available to them. Defendants also argue that an applicant who is “healthy” can easily meet the Proclamation’s requirements because there will not be an “reasonably necessary medical expenses.” Many Plaintiffs, however, describe existing health problems that will result in reasonably medical expenses. The Court finds that the individual Plaintiffs have shown a likelihood that they will suffer sufficiently immediate irreparable harm. It is also likely that putative class members will suffer similar irreparable harm.

Additionally, Defendants do not address the irreparable harm claimed by Plaintiff Latino Network. Latino Network has had to divert significant resources to deal with the Proclamation

even before it went into effect, preventing Latino Network from engaging in its core mission. Latino Network would have to continue to divert resources and abandon a significant portion of its core mission if the Proclamation were allowed to go into effect. This qualifies as sufficient irreparable harm. *See E. Bay Sanctuary Covenant v. Trump*, 354 F. Supp. 3d 1094, 1116 (N.D. Cal. 2018) (“Given the injuries described above, the Organizations ‘have established a likelihood of irreparable harm’ based on their showing of serious ‘ongoing harms to their organizational missions,’ including diversion of resources and the non-speculative loss of substantial funding from other sources.” (citation omitted)).

C. Balancing the Equities and Public Interest

In weighing equities, a court “must balance the competing claims of injury and must consider the effect on each party of the granting or withholding of the requested relief.” *Winter*, 555 U.S. at 24 (citation omitted). When the government is the defendant, generally the balancing of the equities and the public interest factors merge. *See, e.g., League of Wilderness Defs./Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project v. Connaughton*, 752 F.3d 755, 766 (9th Cir. 2014). When determining the public interest, a court “primarily addresses impact on non-parties rather than parties.” *Id.* (quoting *Sammartano v. First Judicial Dist. Court*, 303 F.3d 959, 947 (9th Cir. 2002)). When the alleged action by the government violates federal law, the public interest factor generally weighs in favor of the plaintiff. *See Valle del Sol*, 732 F.3d at 1029; *see also Inland Empire-Immigrant Youth Collective v. Nielsen*, 2018 WL 1061408, at *21 (C.D. Cal. Feb. 26, 2018) (“In addition, the Court again notes the public interest that exists in ensuring that the government complies with its obligations under the law and follows its own procedures.” (quotation marks omitted)); *Coyotl v. Kelly*, 261 F. Supp. 3d 1328, 1344 (N.D. Ga. 2017) (“[T]he public has an interest in government agencies being required to comply with their own written guidelines instead of engaging in arbitrary decision making.”).

Twenty-one states,⁸ the District of Columbia, and the City of New York City (collectively “Government *Amici*”) filed an *amici* brief outlining their interests and the significant harm these states and other governmental entities will suffer if the Proclamation is allowed to go into effect. They explain that immigrants “are vital to the economic, civic, and social fabric of our states and city.” They describe how family reunification benefits the economic, social, and psychological well-being of the affected individuals, while family separation results in myriad harms, including mental and behavioral health issues, lower academic achievement among children, toxic stress, cognitive impairment, and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. They quote the 1981 Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy, a congressionally-appointed commission tasked with studying immigration policy, describing the necessity of family reunification:

[R]eunification . . . serves the national interest not only through the humaneness of the policy itself, but also through the promotion of the public order and well being of the nation. Psychologically and socially, the reunion of family members with their close relatives promotes the health and welfare of the United States.

ECF 88 at 13.

Government *Amici* also describe how immigrants benefit economies. They note that immigrants have “enriched our country’s social and cultural life, injecting new ideas into our intellectual fabric, offering path-breaking contributions in science, technology, and other fields, and ultimately making our diverse communities engines of innovation and more desirable places to live.” They explain that because the Proclamation will dramatically decrease the number of lawful immigrants, it will “cause substantial economic harm to *Amici*, including by diminishing

⁸ The states are California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.

revenue collection, dampening small business creation, and reducing employment in key sectors of the economy.”

Government *Amici* detail that immigrants pay nationally more than \$405.4 billion in taxes, and immigrant-owned companies employ more than 7.9 million workers. Government *Amici* detail the billions in taxes paid and spending power exercised in each state by immigrants. For example, in 2014 immigrant-led households paid more than \$26 billion in state and local taxes in California, \$1.1 billion in state and local taxes in Minnesota, and \$736.6 million in state and local taxes in Oregon. These households exercised more than \$240 billion in spending power in California, \$8.9 billion in spending power in Minnesota, and \$7.4 billion in spending power in Oregon. With respect to New York City, immigrants contributed \$195 billion, or 22 percent, to the gross domestic product of 2017. Immigrants own 52 percent of businesses in New York City, creating jobs and providing essential goods and services.

Government *Amici* further detail the harm to certain employment sectors, which are disproportionately filled with immigrants. For example, in California, more than two-thirds of the jobs in agricultural sectors, 45.6 percent of manufacturing positions, 43 percent of the construction workers, and 41 percent of workers in computer and mathematical sciences are filled by immigrants. In Oregon 39.5 percent of workers in the farming, fishing and forestry sector, nearly 20 percent of the workers in manufacturing positions, and 18.4 percent of accommodation and food service workers are filled by immigrants.

Finally, Government *Amici* explain how the Proclamation likely will harm their interests with respect to the state-based health insurance marketplace. The ACA authorized the creation of exchanges presenting affordable insurance coverage choices for consumers in order to “increase the number of Americans covered by health insurance and decrease the cost of health care.”

Nat'l Fed'n of Indep. Bus. v. Sebelius, 567 U.S. 519, 538 (2012). The ACA provides premium tax credits for purchasing insurance on the exchange to help offset the cost. 26 U.S.C. § 36B. Congress extended those tax credits to any taxpayer who “is an alien lawfully present in the United States . . .” *Id.* at § 36B(c)(1)(B)(ii). The Proclamation only allows “unsubsidized” ACA plans, which although undefined, appears to mean plans that do not utilize the tax credit.

Government *Amici* describe how the fact that legal immigrants will be unable to obtain comprehensive plans under the ACA, and will instead be forced to buy unregulated plans such as STLDI and some of the other “approved” plans will result in the immigrants being left underinsured. This underinsurance will, in turn, burden local and state governments because underinsured persons are at *higher* risk of uncompensated cost than if they were permitted to purchase a comprehensive subsidized plan under the ACA. For example, Government *Amici* discuss how STLDI plans typically exclude coverage of preexisting conditions or charge exorbitant premiums to cover those conditions, and that one recent study shows that 43 percent of such plans did not cover mental health services, 62 percent did not cover substance abuse treatment, 71 percent did not cover outpatient prescription drugs, and 100 percent did not cover maternity care.

Legal immigrants also may be subject to deceptive marketing and fraudulent insurance products in response to the Proclamation, which will result in Government *Amici* having an increased regulatory burden to increase oversight to protect consumers. The proliferation of non-ACA compliant plans may make it difficult or impossible for states to regulate such plans, increasing harm to consumers and the insurance market and resulting in greater uncompensated care and costs.

Nine nonprofit organizations⁹ (collectively, “Nonprofit *Amici*”) also filed an *amici* brief in support of the Court issuing a preliminary injunction. They describe the effect the issuance of the Proclamation has had on their ability to provide their services, and how if the Proclamation were to go into effect it would further erode their ability to provide services. For example, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center provides health care services for Washington and Yamhill County, with a focus on seasonal and migrant workers. They have already seen patients refusing to obtain care out of fear of the changing rules and requirements for immigrant status, including a pregnant woman declining maternity care.

Nonprofit *Amici* describe the fear and anxiety they encounter in the immigrant communities they serve, the increasing family separation they have witnessed in the past few years, and how it effects their constituents and services. This includes immigrants refusing services and the Nonprofit *Amici* having to work harder to provide services that previously were welcomed, even services as important as food benefits.

Defendants’ only argument with respect to the balance of the equities and the public interest is that the \$35 billion problem of uncompensated health care costs is a serious national problem and thus the Proclamation should be allowed to go into effect. Defendants, however, provide no evidence that the Proclamation will have any effect in reducing the asserted \$35 billion in uncompensated costs. The Proclamation did not make such a finding. The Proclamation merely noted that legal immigrants are more likely to be uninsured than U.S. citizens, but that statistic says nothing about whether and in what amount recent legal immigrants

⁹ The nonprofit organizations are Adelante Mujeres, Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services, Causa, Centro Latino Americano, El Programa Hispano Católico, The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, Oregon Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, and VIVA Inclusive Migrant Network.

use national health care resources, or whether they make any meaningful contribution to the \$35 billion in uncompensated costs. There is no evidence in the record that immediate implementation of the Proclamation is necessary to help the “national interest” of reducing uncompensated healthcare costs. On the other hand, there is significant evidence that allowing the Proclamation to go into immediate effect will have an irreparably harmful effect on Plaintiffs, putative class members, state and local governments, and *amici*. Weighing all the interests, the balance of the equities and the public interest tips sharply in favor of Plaintiffs, and supports preserving the *status quo* until the Court renders its decision on the merits.

D. Conclusion

All four *Winter* factors weigh in favor of granting a preliminary injunction. Plaintiffs have met their burden to demonstrate a need for preliminary injunctive relief until the Court decides the merits of this case.

E. Scope of Injunctive Relief

Plaintiffs have moved for certification of a nationwide class, consisting of two subclasses, as follows:

U.S. Petitioner Subclass

Individuals in the United States who currently have an approved or pending petition to the United States government to sponsor a noncitizen family member for an immigrant visa, or who will soon file such a petition; and whose sponsored family member is subject to the Proclamation and unable to demonstrate to a consular officer’s satisfaction that he or she “will be covered by approved health insurance” within 30 days after entry or will be able “to pay for reasonably foreseeable medical costs”; and

Visa Applicant Subclass

Individuals who are foreign nationals who (i) have applied for or will soon apply to the United States government for an immigrant visa; (ii) are otherwise eligible to be granted the visa; but (iii) are subject to the Proclamation and unable to demonstrate to the

satisfaction of a consular officer that they “will be covered by approved health insurance” within 30 days after entry or will be able “to pay for reasonably foreseeable medical costs.”

The motion for class certification has not yet been fully briefed, had a hearing, or been resolved. Defendants argue that they should be permitted additional time to engage in some discovery relating to the named Plaintiffs, and assert that they did not have sufficient time to prepare their brief in response to the motion for class certification. Plaintiffs seek to include additional plaintiffs in the motion for class certification, and have not yet been able to move to amend their complaint to add those plaintiffs given the expedited process for the preliminary injunction. Thus, items remain outstanding with respect to class certification.

Defendants argue that if the Court finds that a preliminary injunction is appropriate at this time, the Court should only enter an injunction with respect to the specific named Plaintiffs and not a “nationwide” or “universal” injunction because the Court has not yet certified this lawsuit as a nationwide class action. This argument is not persuasive considering the conduct and harm alleged in this case.

“[T]he scope of [a] remedy is determined by the nature and extent of the . . . violation.” *Milliken v. Bradley*, 433 U.S. 267, 270 (1977). “[T]he scope of injunctive relief is dictated by the extent of the violation established, not by the geographical extent of the plaintiff class.” *Califano v. Yamasaki*, 442 U.S. 682, 702 (1979). “An injunction may extend ‘benefit or protection’ to nonparties ‘if such breadth is necessary to give prevailing parties the relief to which they are entitled.’” *E. Bay Sanctuary Covenant v. Trump*, 932 F.3d 742, 779 (9th Cir. 2018) (quoting *Bresgal v. Brock*, 843 F.2d 1163, 1170 (9th Cir. 1987)). Although in 2018 and 2019 the Ninth Circuit has remanded some cases for specific findings relating to the scope of an injunction, that court has also reaffirmed that “[i]n immigration matters, we have consistently recognized the authority of district courts to enjoin unlawful policies on a universal basis.” *Id.* (citing *Regents of*

the Univ. of Cal. v. U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec., 908 F.3d 476, 511 (9th Cir. 2018), *cert. granted sub nom. Dep't of Homeland Sec. v. Regents of the Univ. of California*, 139 S. Ct. 2779 (2019); *Hawaii III*, 878 F.3d at 701; *Washington*, 847 F.3d at 1166-67).

Additionally, when a plaintiff requests preliminary injunctive relief before class certification has been decided, a court may consider the harm to the putative class and grant classwide appropriate preliminary injunctive relief to preserve the *status quo*, particularly when, as in this case, there is alleged classwide harm and conduct aimed at a class of persons. *See J.L. v. Cissna*, 341 F. Supp. 3d 1048, 1070 (N.D. Cal. 2018) (granting a classwide injunction when “preliminary injunctive relief is necessary to preserve the status quo and to prevent irreparable harm for all Plaintiffs and the putative class”); *Chhoeun v. Marin*, 306 F. Supp. 3d 1147, 1164 (C.D. Cal. 2018) (granting a classwide injunction before certification when “an injunction is necessary to forestall harm to putative class members that is likely to transpire before the parties can litigate a motion for class certification”); *see also Just Film, Inc. v. Merch. Servs., Inc.*, 474 F. App'x 493, 495 (9th Cir. 2012) (affirming the scope of a class-wide preliminary injunction that was “tailored to maintain the *status quo* where class certification is pending and a class-wide injunction is necessary to remedy the alleged class-wide harm”).¹⁰ “This relief may be narrowed

¹⁰ District courts outside the Ninth Circuit have similarly reached this same conclusion. *See Abdi v. Duke*, 280 F. Supp. 3d 373, 400 (W.D. N.Y. 2017) (“Under appropriate circumstances, a court may grant preliminary injunctive relief in favor of putative class members before class certification, and correspondingly, assess the harm to putative class members when considering the preliminary injunction motion.”); *Hamama v. Adducci*, 261 F. Supp. 3d 820, 840 n.13 (E.D. Mich. 2017) (issuing a classwide preliminary injunction and stating: “The Court notes that its issuance of a preliminary injunction comes prior to a decision on class certification. However, the Sixth Circuit has held that ‘there is nothing improper about a preliminary injunction preceding a ruling on class certification.’” (quoting *Gooch v. Life Investors Ins. Co. of America*, 672 F.3d 402, 433 (6th Cir. 2012))); *Planned Parenthood of Kansas v. Mosier, Medicare & Medicaid P 305668*, 2016 WL 3597457, at *26 (D. Kan. July 5, 2016) (“[C]ase law supports this Court’s authority to issue classwide injunctive relief based on its general equity powers before deciding a class certification motion.”); *Rodriguez v. Providence Cmty. Corrections, Inc.*, 155 F. Supp. 3d 758, 767 (M.D. Tenn. 2015) (“[A] district court may, in its discretion, award appropriate classwide injunctive

in the event Plaintiffs are unable to justify certification of a class.” *Cissna*, 341 F. Supp. 3d at 1070; *see also Just Film*, 474 F. App’x at 495 (noting that a court should “review the continued existence and the scope of the preliminary injunction, if and when a class is certified”).

Providing such preliminary classwide relief does not first require that the Court engage in some version of an analysis under Rule 23 of the Federal Civil Rules of Civil Procedure, as argued by Defendants. As the authorities cited above show, the important question for imposing classwide relief is whether it is necessary to prevent classwide harm for alleged classwide conduct. Here, the Proclamation is directed against a class of persons and would cause the same alleged harm to the entire putative class—being forced to meet the dispositive requirement of purchasing health insurance or showing sufficient financial resources or face an inadmissibility determination. Having putative class members suffer this alleged irreparable harm merely because the preliminary injunction had to be litigated in an expedited fashion before class certification could be fully litigated is contrary to the purposes behind class actions and preliminary injunctive relief to preserve the *status quo*. Thus, classwide relief at this stage is appropriate.

relief prior to a formal ruling on the class certification issue based upon either a conditional certification of the class or its general equity powers.” (alteration in original) (quoting *Thomas v. Johnston*, 557 F. Supp. 879, 917 (W.D. Tex. 1983)); *Lee v. Orr*, 2013 WL 6490577, *2 (N.D. Ill. 2013) (“The court may conditionally certify the class or otherwise order a broad preliminary injunction, without a formal class ruling, under its general equity powers. The lack of formal class certification does not create an obstacle to classwide preliminary injunctive relief when activities of the defendant are directed generally against a class of persons.” (quoting *Illinois League of Advocates for the Developmentally, Disabled v. Illinois Dept. of Human Services*, 2013 WL 3287145, *3 (N.D. Ill. 2013))); *N.Y. State Nat. Org. For Women v. Terry*, 697 F. Supp. 1324, 1336 (S.D.N.Y. 1988) (holding that “the Court acted in the only reasonable manner it could under the circumstances, ruling on the continuation of [the] temporary restraining order and leaving the question of class certification for another day”).

The record evidence sufficiently shows the significant harm the Proclamation would cause to 21 states, the District of Columbia, and New York City, and the putative class members that reside in these locations. The record also sufficiently shows the harm to the named Plaintiffs, their families, and additional persons who are members of the putative class (and willing to serve as additional class representatives).

The record further shows irreparable harm to Plaintiff Latino Network, which an injunction limited to only the individual Plaintiffs would not redress. There also currently are not any other pending lawsuits addressing the Proclamation, eliminating the concern some commentators and court opinions have expressed that a “universal” injunction “would unnecessarily ‘stymie novel legal challenges and robust debate’ arising in different judicial districts.” *E. Bay Sanctuary Covenant v. Barr*, 934 F.3d 1026, 1029 (9th Cir. 2019) (quoting *Trump*, 897 F.3d at 1243-44). An injunction only affecting, for example, named Plaintiffs and immigrants intending to come to Oregon or sponsored by someone in Oregon (to address the harm to Plaintiff Latino Network), or some other subset of persons, also would create significant administrative difficulties. *See, e.g., E. Bay Sanctuary Covenant v. Barr*, 391 F. Supp. 3d 974, 985 (N.D. Cal. 2019). It would lead to uneven enforcement. It may also lead to unintended consequences for the State of Oregon. This is unlike the more narrowly-crafted injunctions that involved a specific border crossing entry point, which could more easily be geographically segregated.

A comprehensive injunction precluding enforcement of the Proclamation, thus, is necessary to provide Plaintiffs and putative class members with relief at this stage of the litigation and to preserve the *status quo*. The Court may revisit such relief after Plaintiffs’ motion for class certification has been decided.

F. Stay

Defendants request that if the Court were to issue an injunction, the Court stay the injunction pending interlocutory appeal. The Court denies Defendants' request for a stay of the injunction. The Proclamation does not involve an issue of national security, sensitive diplomatic relations, or even general foreign relations. The Proclamation also does not contain any specific findings supporting the conclusion that its implementation will have any effect on the problem that it is purporting to address, the claimed \$35 billion in domestic uncompensated health care costs, and certainly not during the time needed for appellate review. The irreparable harm to Plaintiffs and the putative class, however, is immediate and significant. Accordingly, a stay is not appropriate.

G. Bond

Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure directs that “[t]he court may issue a preliminary injunction or a temporary restraining order only if the movant gives security in an amount that the court considers proper to pay the costs and damages sustained by any party found to have been wrongfully enjoined or restrained.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(c). Federal courts, however, have discretion as to the amount of security and may even dispense with the security requirement altogether. *See Johnson v. Couturier*, 572 F.3d 1067, 1086 (9th Cir. 2009) (“Rule 65(c) invests the district court with discretion as to the amount of security required, *if any.*” (quoting *Jorgensen v. Cassidy*, 320 F.3d 906, 919 (9th Cir. 2003))); *Save Our Sonoran, Inc. v. Flowers*, 408 F.3d 1113, 1126 (9th Cir. 2005) (“The district court has discretion to dispense with the security requirement, or to request mere nominal security, where requiring security would effectively deny access to judicial review.” (quoting *Cal. ex rel. Van De Kamp v. Tahoe Reg'l Planning Agency*, 766 F.2d 1319, 1325 (9th Cir. 1985))). The Court has considered

the relative hardships and the likelihood of success on the merits and concludes that to require any security in this case would be unjust. Thus, the Court waives the requirement of a bond.

PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

Plaintiffs' Motion for a Preliminary Injunction (ECF 46) is **GRANTED**. Until the Court resolves this case on the merits or orders otherwise, or until such time as the parties agree in writing to amend, supersede, or terminate this Preliminary Injunction, **IT IS ORDERED** that Defendants are enjoined from taking any action to implement or enforce Presidential Proclamation No. 9945, "Presidential Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry of Immigrants Who Will Financially Burden the United States Healthcare System."

DATED this 26th day of November, 2019.

/s/ Michael H. Simon
Michael H. Simon
United States District Judge