Ladies and gentlemen thank you for standing by.

Welcome to the webinar entitled Immigration Reform: Key Issues for Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities and Home-Based Services.

During the presentation all participants will be in a listen-only mode. Afterwards we will conduct a question-and-answer session.

If you'd like to ask a question during the presentation, please use the Chat feature located in the lower left corner of your screen.

As a reminder this conference is being recorded Thursday April 4, 2013.

I would now like to turn the conference over to Mr. Joe Caldwell. Please go ahead sir.

Thank you and good afternoon everybody and thanks for joining today's webinar.
Today's webinar is hosted by what's known as the Friday Morning Collaborative. This is a coalition of aging and disability groups at the national level that have really come together to work on home and community based services and to advance long-term care policy at the national level.

And this is a list of the organizations that are part of the Friday Morning Collaborative. It's a great mix of over 30 national aging and disability organizations. And one of our organizations that has been involved is the Caring Across Generations Campaign and today's webinar is also being done in collaboration with the Caring Across Generations Campaign. And you'll hear more about that from Sarita who's one of our presenters who will talk a little bit about that campaign and some of the work that has been going on.

Just to go over some of the logistics of the webinar, one of the questions that always comes in on the chat and a lot of people ask it is can we get a copy of the PowerPoint. And the answer is yes and how that will come is in a follow-up e-mail that everybody who registered for the webinar will get early next week that will have the PowerPoint. It will also have an archive of the entire webinar and you're free to share with that with anyone else that you want to that may have missed the webinar that you think might be interested in it.

And in addition to that we're also going to send you some additional information including a whitepaper that we're going to talk a little bit about later that we just released today that covers a lot of the key issues in immigration reform for people with disabilities and seniors. So we'll talk more about that. And everybody will get a copy of that.

Because we have a large number of people on the call today, there's actually over 350 people that have registered from across the country, virtually every state and because of the large number of people on the call we're going mute
all the lines during the call. But there will be time at the end to get to questions and answers and comments and the way we're going to do that is through the chat function.

So if you look at your screen in the lower left-hand corner you'll see the chat box. And at any point during the webinar today to feel free to send in comments and questions and then at the very end we'll get to as many comments and questions as we can. And I really encourage people to do this.

One of the benefits of this webinar and connecting with state advocates across the country is it's an opportunity for us to also learn about the issues and I know that there's a lot of people on the call today that are in the states and they're working on issues related to immigration and people with disabilities and seniors so we really do want to hear your questions and comments.

And I think with that I'll turn it over to our colleague (Jason Coats) from the National Hispanic Council on Aging and he's going to do a quick overview of an introduction of the speakers on today's webinar. So (Jason) go ahead.

(Jason Coats): Hi everyone this is (Jason) from the National Hispanic Council on Aging. It's the premier national organization working to improve the lives of Hispanic older adults and their families and caregivers. Thanks for being on the webinar today.

First we're going to hear from Jenny Rejeske with the National Immigration Law Center. She's going to provide an overview of the key issues and debates related to accessing healthcare and economic security benefits for immigrants.

Next we're going to hear from Sarita Gupta from Caring Across Generations and she's going to describe what immigration reform actually entails. She's
going to outline the broad picture of some comprehensive immigration reform describing the Senate committee debate and the White House frameworks on comprehensive immigration reform.

After that we're going to hear from (Roni Patrick) from Hand In Hand. She's going to provide some personal stories from a disability perspective on immigration and she'll describe key issues for immigrants with disabilities.

After that we're going to speak with Ivy Ngo from the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center, SEARAC. She's going to discuss supplemental security income issues for asylees and refugees and their policy options for them in the comprehensive immigration reform process.

After that we're going to hear from (Eva Dominguez) from the Alliance for Retired Americans and from Latinos for a Secure Retirement. She's going to speak about the impacts on Social Security and Medicare and then describe the economic benefits of immigration reform.

And with that I'll turn it over to Jenny.

Jenny Rejeske: Hello good afternoon and good morning to everyone on the call on the webinar. I'm very happy to be here with you all today to talk about the exciting stuff going on with immigration reform. I'm from the National Immigration Law Center. I'm the Health Policy Analyst in the D.C. office.

I'm going to start today by giving just a brief overview of immigrants and the immigration process and then we'll talk about immigration reform and what's going on in Congress and then move into some of the priorities for access to healthcare and economic support and how that's playing out in immigration reform now.
So briefly today there are 40.4 million immigrants in the United States. That's 13% of the total population. You can see by the pie chart here that almost half, 45%, are naturalized citizens and about a quarter or a little more than a quarter are LPRs or lawful permanent residents or green card holders and other legal immigrants, and then about 27% are undocumented. That’s 11 million people in the U.S. who are undocumented.

In terms of where immigrants live, the majority of immigrants still live in the traditional gateway state. That's where the biggest population of immigrants are so those are listed there on top.

In red are the states that have more than 1.7 million immigrants who are living in those states. Over the last ten years the states listed below from the south and the west, the southwest, has seen the fastest growth of the immigrant population so those states in the last ten years have had a 280% growth in their immigrant populations. And that's mostly because of job opportunities.

Quickly an overview of the immigration process and here I hope to just illustrate a little bit why it's so important that we pass comprehensive immigration reform and some of the things we're trying to fix.

The last time an immigration reform bill passed was in 1986 so it was a while ago and we're left here with significant populations that are living kind of under the radar. So you've got 11 million people who are undocumented immigrants who live in the shadows, who are - many of them have families, many of them have citizen children who were born here but live in constant fear of being separated from their families and deported.
There's also 4.4 million people who are "in line." These are folks who are in the family and the employer-based immigration backlogs. And the reason why there's so many people in line is because there's annual limits on the number of visas available for people who want to reunite with their family and for people who want to work for an employer who is sponsoring them with a visa.

For example there is 10,000 visas that are available each year for low skilled workers. There's also caps on family members that can come over. So obviously the demand far exceeds the number of visas that are available and the wait for family members in their native countries can be from a few years to decades before they can be eligible for a visa and able to come to the United States and reunite with their family members. So it's a difficult process and not everybody is eligible to get in line to become a legal permanent resident, to get a green card.

We also have a really intense detention and deportation system and an immigration justice system that is not just. What we can see here is that the numbers of folks who are in detention and deported each year is the highest in history. There are 400,000 people each you or recently in the past year have been deported. That's 1100 people a day who are deported, 34,000 a day in detention. So those are 400,000 different stories of people who were separated from their family members and deported.

The immigration justice system right now people can be detained without just cause, immigrants don't have a right to legal counsel when they are detained and many of them who are in detention -- most of them who are in detention -- sign a way their right to see a judge and agree to be deported right away. And many times when they're signing their called stipulated orders of removal people don't know what they're signing and don't have an understanding of what it means when they sign away these rights.
So to address some of those issues and some of those problems this is what we expect to see in a comprehensive immigration reform bill. First of all we are hoping for a roadmap to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants and we think the roadmap to citizenship is especially important. We don't want an underclass of immigrants; we want full rights and responsibilities so it's going to be they're paying taxes and having all the responsibilities, should have all the rights to citizenship as well.

So it's likely based on the frameworks that have been presented that there will be a new provisional immigration status created for folks who right now are undocumented and that people would get a work permit when they are eligible to - when they are eligible for provisional status. And then after several years they'll eventually be able to apply for a green card or for a lawful permanent residency and then eventually after that would be able to apply for citizenship.

So the big questions here are how long will this process take, how long does this provisional status last and how hard is going to be for people to get through it, what are going to be the fees on it, the penalties, how much is this going to cost, what are going to be the restrictions to be eligible for that status and will there be some special tracks for some special populations. For example will DREAMers (unintelligible) be able to get an expedited pass and get their green cards earlier. And then what are these folks going to be eligible for. So the new status how do they fit into the whole scheme of who's eligible for public benefits, who's eligible for health coverage in the Affordable Care Act and what will they have access to.

An immigration reform bill will also fix the family and employment backlogs. There will definitely be border security and interior enforcement provisions in the law and hopefully they will have their due process protections. It will be e-
verify or verification of eligibly to work as a work authorization for everybody at all employers. That is also like to happen. And then some agreement on future flow. So what will be the legal channels for people to immigrate in the future either through employment or through family, will there still be a focus on family immigration or will it be more based on economic needs.

So turning to what's going on right now in Congress, there are bipartisan talks happening in both the Senate and the House. In the Senate we've got a gang of eight with Schumer and Mendez, Durbin, Bennet, McCain, Graham, Rubio and Flake. They have been meeting for several months and the hope is that they will introduce a bill in early to mid-April, possibly by the end of next week would be the earliest.

They have reached a general agreement on many of the provisions that I just mentioned and we anticipate there will be a roadmap to citizenship for people who are undocumented right now and there have been some recent agreements around future provisions.

So once the bill is introduced it will be sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee for consideration markup. So based on this timeline earliest date that markup could start would be April 25 which means Senate floor action wouldn't happen till May or June.

So in the House there are very secret bipartisan negotiations that continue. One of the folks -- I heard it called a club of eight instead of a gang of eight -- so we've got Lofgren, Gutierrez, Becerra, (unintelligible) Diaz-Balart, Labrador, Sam Johnson and John Carter. Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi have been briefed in mid-March about the progress of those talks and have their blessing to those talks continuing and they say that they are really close
to reaching a deal which they've been saying for a long time. So I think the process in the House is particularly fluid and I'm not exactly sure how it will play out in the House but those talks are proceeding and so far seem to be proceeding well.

And then finally the White House, President Obama said this is one of his top priorities for this administration. He was interviewed recently on Telemundo and said he was confident the Senate would introduce a bill in April. And his timeline is that he wants a bill passed by August, before the August recess to avoid some of the August town hall challenges to happen with the Affordable Care Act. He's also been developing his own bill and is prepared to send a bill from the White House to Congress if negotiations are not proceeding as quickly as he would like.

So that was basically an overview of what's been going on. I'm going to shift a little bit to access to healthcare and economic support in immigration reform. These are some of the big sticking points and challenges on how folks will be included or whether people who gain legal status will have access to healthcare or better access than they have now.

And we're talking about why this important, it reminds me of all of the reasons why we were fighting for health reform and why it's important for people to get coverage. Basically it makes sense for people to have more people paying into the healthcare system to get the healthcare that they need and to not go hungry.

So there's the economic reasons that adding people to the risk pool which brings cost down for everybody, it reduces the burden on safety net providers. If more people have health insurance people are more likely to receive preventive and primary care and not delay their care until it's an emergency
and costs more. And we're all better off when our family members, our neighbors, our kids’ classmates, the folks next to us at church, the people in the grocery store, the people who serve us food, in general and when all community members have access to healthcare and economic support.

So I wanted to remind us where we're at. We had a very complicated immigrant eligibility system in terms of who's eligible for what. In Medicare it's just lawful permanent residents so green card holders are eligible for Medicare and citizens of course. There's a five-year waiting period for green card holders. The five-year barrier for Medicare is getting the 40 work quarters.

For the other federal public benefit programs, Medicaid, CHIP, food stamps, TANF and SSI one has to be a qualified immigrant which is a restricted group of legal immigrants. Those would be green card holders or LPRs and humanitarian immigrants so folks who are fleeing persecution in their native country, fleeing civil war, violence, they're refugees or asylees, victims of trafficking, those types of folks.

Those are the only people who are eligible for the federal public benefit programs and those people for most of those folks they also have a five-year bar so they have to wait five years, even once they get a green card have to wait another five years before they're eligible for most of these programs.

One exception is that was passed through CHIP around 2009 was that states can provide Medicaid and CHIP to lawfully present kids and pregnant woman if they pick up that option. And then there's also emergency Medicaid which is available only for emergency but for immigrants who don't meet the immigration requirement for Medicaid.
And then finally in the Affordable Care Act we have some gains. So it's broader than the group of qualified immigrants, it's all lawful present folks who are eligible in the ACA. So that includes green card holders and the humanitarian immigrants, it also includes applicants for green cards, applicants for asylum, people who have student and/or employment visas, people who have temporary protected status, folks who have deferred action except for the DREAMers, folks who got deferred action for childhood arrivals which was a program announced last summer, and several others.

So people who are lawfully present are eligible for everything in the Affordable Care Act: subsidies, the tax credits, cost sharing reductions, the visa program and basic health plans.

So the question is what do these new immigrants who gain legal status, what are they eligible for? So here are some of our top priorities for immigration reform. First of all we want to do no harm to existing eligibility so for people who gain legal status or who gain a green card in the future we don't want any new waiting periods or restrictions or exclusions on their eligibility. So at the very least current eligibility levels should be maintained.

We'd also like to see the elimination of the five-year bar to Medicaid and CHIP and food stamps. And the thing to remember here is that if a provisional status lasts between the earliest that we've seen in the proposals is six years in the president's proposal, it could be as long as ten years. If you add - so folks have to wait six or ten years before they get a green card then they have to wait another five years before they're eligible for public benefit programs. That turns into right now an 11 to 15-year wait for access to these programs for people who are gaining legal status.
If we can't get full elimination of the five-year bar we would like to at least see that time and provisional status is being towards the five-year bar. So it would be just the time and provisional status that people would have to wait to be eligible for Medicaid or food stamps, they wouldn’t have to wait an additional five years.

We would like to see people immediately eligible for the ACA. Once people become lawfully present and gain legal status they should have access to everything in the ACA including the tax credits and cost sharing reductions.

And finally we'd liked to see that the safety net is protected.

So we have several challenges with getting this stuff in immigration reform and the big one is cost, particularly eligibility for the ACA subsidies which is expensive, the federal subsidies. Also any changes to public benefit programs is going to be a rift in the immigration reform bill. And unfortunately there have been unfavorable scores from the Congressional Budget Office in the past so when they looked at immigration reform proposals in the past and how much it would cost for folks to be eligible for public benefits and health care, it's been very expensive. So that's our big challenge, particularly in the budget climate that we're in right now.

There's also the politics of the Affordable Care Act. There's a particularly - remember this is a bipartisan proposal that we're trying to pass here and so any kind of improvements to the Affordable Care Act or additions to the Affordable Care Act are politically unpopular particularly from republicans.

And we have a sense here that once this goes to committee and goes to the floor and there are amendments that are introduced we know we are going to have to be on the defense and we had a taste of this a couple of weeks ago
during the budget resolution, the passage of the budget resolution in the Senate where Senator Sessions introduced an amendment that would have restricted the individuals who gain legal status that were previously undocumented from every being eligible for Medicaid or the ACA. So even after they become citizens they would still be ineligible for Medicaid or the ACA and this was something that was voted on and approved by all republicans accept for Senators Murkowski and Collins. So all the dems voted against it plus these two republicans so the amendment was seceded but that was just a taste of what we're going to see in the immigration reform fight when it comes to access to healthcare.

So that's where I'm to end. Here's my contact my information. We do have a lot of work going on on trying to advance the (unintelligible) immigration reform. I invite you to be in touch with me if you'd like to get more involved.

And I will pass things onto Sarita.

Sarita Gupta: Great thank you Jenny. So welcome everyone onto this briefing call on immigration reform. All of us at Caring Across Generations are really proud and excited to be co-sponsoring this with the Friday Morning Collaborative. And I just want to take a moment to thank Joe and (Jason) and my fellow presenters for making this briefing happen.

My name is Sarita Gupta and I'm the co-director of Caring Across Generations and we're proud to be working in partnership with over 200 organizations to create more access to affordable long-term services and support for the millions of individuals and families around the country who need them while improving the quality of home care and caregiving jobs nationwide.
This is an effort that believes as Americans regardless of age, race or ability we have a share destiny, that our lives and our experiences are interconnected and that we will only count on one another more as we age. We are part of the campaign to win immigration reform because we believe that immigration reform including a broad path to citizenship is a central part of a vision for the future of this country that supports all of us.

It's an opportunity to bring 11 million undocumented immigrants out of the shadows and onto real pathways to opportunities. It's an opportunity to strengthen our economy, it's an opportunity to strengthen the long-term care workforce and develop a strong and stable workforce for the future and it's an opportunity to help reunite families across generations, many of whom have been separated for years.

Thousands of undocumented older adults have been working and living in this country, helping build our communities and economy for more than a decade without a path to legal status. Caregivers like (Maria Luna) in California who supports an elderly couple to live independently in their home struggles to support her own family while living with the constant fear of family separation.

And then there are citizen families who count on immigrant care providers, consumers like (Rick) on Staten Island who counts on an undocumented caregiver to take care of his aging mother. He should have the piece of mind of knowing that his mother's caregiver cannot be deported at any moment.

And the question remains how would we ever meet our long-term care supports and service needs without immigrant workers. The need for workers is expected to increase by 48% while the working age adult population that could fill this need will only grow by 1%. With immigration reform we have
an opportunity to move towards a solution to the second-class status that we've created for more than 11 million aspiring Americans as well as the caregiving needs we face as a nation.

But getting there will not be easy and the road to citizenship could become an obstacle course particularly for caregivers who have worked in a paperless economy and will be unable to prove their history of employment. As Jenny was talking earlier in her presentation about the path that we're on and what's happening in Congress this is a really big issue for caregivers. Our ability to prove history of employment really needs to be delinked or decoupled from the pathway to citizenship.

It's also an obstacle course for older adults and people with disabilities who have unique challenges in getting on the path to citizenship. It's really going to take all of us pushing together to help ensure the road is as broad and inclusive as possible. That's why we've organized this briefing and we're inviting all of you to join the Caring Across Generations' effort to win immigration reform. We'll be sharing tools and resources as well as action steps you can take to join the campaign in a bit.

At the end of the day we believe that the future of the country depends on our collective ability to put forward a vision for the future that supports and includes all of us across age, race and ability, and immigration represents a tremendous step forward in realizing that vision. Thank you.

I'm going to hand it off to (Roni) to talk to us a little bit more about the impact on people with disabilities.

(Roni Patrick): Thanks Sarita. Hi I'm (Roni Patrick). I'm the Director of Independent Living and Access Living and I'm also on the leadership team for Hand In Hand
which is an organization -- I'm going to advance to the next slide here, there it is -- so Hand in Hand is a national network of employers of nannies, housecleaners and home attendants. And you can read the slide here but the partnership has been really strong between disability organizations and domestic worker organizations.

And Hand In Hand represents all types of families and also has leadership that have people with disabilities. And due to this membership of having folks with disabilities involved Hand In Hand has been able to bring the disability voice to the Care Across Generations.

In addition, I am also -- let's see here -- I also work for Access Living which is the Center for Independent Living within the city of Chicago. And an independent living center is a cross-disability organization that is federally mandated to be governed and staffed by a majority of folks with disabilities. As a senior manager here at Access Living I have a disability. I also use personal care attendants funded by general revenue here in the state of Illinois. I have over 50% of my co-directors as well as my staff and my board here at Access Living are folks with disabilities. We've been around since 1980.

So if I can get the next slide to come up, on the next slide there is - this is a testimony of a Hand In Hand member who's a person with a disability and she employs home attendants in Oakland, California. And what this reflects in terms of the experience of folks with disabilities who are able to hire and develop a working relationship with folks who are immigrants is the stress that can be added on our lives when our workers are under scrutiny as immigrants.

So for example this member and also employer had to separate from her personal attendant because she had to return to Brazil because of the
immigration status that's here in the United States. And what that does is breaks down - you lose all of the time, the energy, the intimacy that's been developed when you have someone for whom you depend on to get you dressed, to help you to cook your food, to get to know you with these kinds of really oppressive current laws. So this is an issue that is particularly unique to folks with disabilities.

So in this slide in the background there that's my personal assistant -- one of my personal assistants -- her name is (Maria Montay). She immigrated here from Mexico and I also have an immigrant personal assistant from Jamaica who is her 60s. You can see (Maria)'s in her 20s. And there I am with my immigrant mom in the background speaking to a state legislature in Springfield.

So I developed psoriasis when I was eight years old and then arthritis when I was ten, at 16 I developed depression and so now I have three disabilities that I deal with at my age of 39. And fortunately you can see (Maria)'s working on my scalp. I'm sure she's not very happy with the photograph that I took of her.

But these folks are helping me with things that help me to be able to function as a person who can go down to Springfield as an employer at an independent living center that helps then thousands of Chicagoans with disabilities. And it's through her hands, through those elbows, through her mind like (Maria)'s work has been able to support me.

But what's really hard is that when she has family members that are at risk of being deported that is condition that then I have to witness and also absorb because she may at risk because she has to handle an emergency that happens within her family. And that kind of goes back to that testimony from that
person in California who had to lose her personal assistant because of the immigrant policies that we have her in the United States.

So it's a win-win situation for folks with disabilities and for workers when we're able to protect those workers who are interested and really deserve to be supported here in the United States.

On this next slide at Access Living we also are interested in how immigrants with disabilities are impacted by the immigration reform as well as with current policy. My calculation was wrong. If you look at Jenny's slide there's actually 11 million undocumented folks here in the United States so we have 15% of those folks are folks with disabilities so this number would actually be 1.56 million in undocumented individuals with disabilities.

Here at Access Living we have (Rene David Luvanus) who is also like me was born her in the United States but his parents are immigrants and so for many years he has worked in the immigrant community but specifically that overlap of what affects folks with disabilities and folks who are immigrants. So a big question that he raises is how will folks with disabilities be included in the process and substance of changing immigration policy.

We do know from the disability perspective that there's a long history of discrimination and prejudice against disabled people in the United States and also in all parts of the world so we're treated differently simply because we have disabilities. And so when it comes to us applying for naturalization and citizenship the existence of disabilities is seen negatively within the existing immigration law.

So folks who are immigrants and have disabilities can be barred for two reasons: if we are seen as someone who's going to be draining public dollars
to live in the United States or if we're deemed having a contagious disease. And then also in general disabled immigrants who are undocumented were frowned upon due to race and also just typical disability oppression. And so we're, as disabled people who are immigrants, we are segregated and marginalized by this combination of oppressions.

We've also seen in Chicago, I know there's other stories across the United States of people with disabilities who have been deported due to their need for medical care. Workers who are undocumented could be injured on the job. Like we all know a disability can happen at any time; it doesn't discriminate about who gets a disability.

And when immigrants who are undocumented acquire disabilities through their work they can be and have been deported due to that fact only that they have a disability and they're using public services. And Jenny really highlighted how high a number of people are being deported. Of that number we know it is because they have disabilities.

I'm going to go to the next slide. So this is one of our youths at Access Living. She's already graduated from (unintelligible) University. So a question that we pose is if the path to legalization involves a primary emphasis on the ability to work where does that leave undocumented folks with disabilities who cannot get hired or are not employed.

And again going back to work history so if folks get injured and they acquire a disability and there hasn't been any paper documentation of that work history, how is that going to be rectified in a just way for folks who have disabilities and also are immigrants.
So those are tough questions that I don't have answers but they're rhetorical because if we're talking about justice for all folks and how Sarita had talked about how justice happens when all of us advance together hand in hand that's the best thing that we can do for our society, for our community, for our country, and so thinking about how reform is going to play out, making sure that we consider all facets of the immigrant community.

And I want to thank everybody for your time and this is the independent living center, our staff. You can call us here in Chicago or contact Hand In Hand at that e-mail address. Thank you very much.

Ivy Ngo:
Hi everyone my name is Ivy Ngo and I'm a policy advocate at the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center and I'll be talking about economic security issues facing older immigrants within comprehensive immigration reform.

I'll be using my work and experience with Southeast Asian older immigrant and refugees to highlight issues that current older immigrants and refugees face. My contact information is also here so please feel free to reach out with any questions or comments. And also I'd like to thank you all for joining me today.

So for my portion of this discussion I'll give an introduction to SEARAC, our organization, and then move onto some demographics in the Southeast Asian community and then discuss two issues I wanted to talk about: supplemental security income and also family reunification.

So just as a bit of background this is SEARAC, the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center. We're a national policy advocacy organization and we work on behalf of the refugee populations from the Vietnam War so Vietnamese Americans, Laotian Americans, Hmong Americans and Cambodian
Americans. We work on a number of different issues affecting all generations of life and I work on aging specifically.

And this is a photo from an elder advocacy that we held recently on Capitol Hill here in Washington, D.C.

I'd like to start off with just some demographic information about Southeast Asians who are over the age of 65 in the United States today. Overall our community is very young, it has very young roots in the United States. We've only been here since 1975 and so virtually all of the elders, all of the folks who are over the age of 65 arrived as refugees and immigrants.

Some arrived as refugees or as elders already I'm sorry, but what we see more now are individuals who arrive as working-age adults and who are retiring into the system. So a lot of the issues around disability and worker's rights and access to benefits that previous presenters have talked about we also see as well.

The data - as you can see the data on the presentation slide shows that older immigrants are more economically insecure. Poverty rates are very high. For instance there's 20.3% poverty rate among Cambodian-American elders and also a reliance on SSI, on supplemental security income and disability rates are higher than we used the white population as a control. This is taken from the American Community Survey.

This data also reflects overall trends with other immigrant populations not just Southeast Asian Americans. Older immigrants are more likely to be lower income, to be disabled and to rely on SSI. And since older immigrants often come later in life they may not have accrued enough work credits for Social Security or Medicaid premiums and this also might contribute to their
vulnerability. So we see a lot of the issues there on disability compounding over a lifetime for many of these older immigrants.

And I apologize for not including this but language access is a huge issue for older immigrant communities and the rates of limited English proficiency are much higher among older immigrants. Over half of older immigrants are limited English proficient and within our Southeast Asian community this number can be up in the 80s.

Just to delve into the meat of the presentation I'm going to start talking about SSI. As you know SSI is a critical lifeline for individuals who are age disabled and low income. And refugees and humanitarian immigrants are eligible for SSI upon arrival and they don't have to meet the five-year bar or the work credits; however, under the 1996 welfare reform laws SSI eligibility was limited to 7 years for non citizens. So individuals would have to naturalize or else they would lose access to their benefits.

I think this is a prime example how prolonged the immigration and refugee process system can be here. This issue affects us even though the Southeast Asian community has been here for nearly four decades. Some of the refugee camps in Southeast Asia weren't closed until the mid 2000s and they've been in operation for decades. And as an example in 2004 and 2005 around 15,000 Hmong individuals are finally resettled in the United States.

So in the past few years what we've seen is that there's been a huge spike in the number of Southeast Asian older adults who are losing to access to their SSI benefits, to this critical lifeline.

This issue also affects many other refugee populations, for instance Cuban and Haitian communities or post Soviet and Eastern European refugees and we're
also monitoring it now with newer refugee communities such as the Burmese and Bhutanese communities.

What we've seen is there are huge barriers to naturalization for refugee elders and there are number circumstances that make it so including the advanced age or disability, past circumstances such as trauma and the lack of formal education or the lack of resources and support throughout the process, for instance financial or other supports. We've worked with elders who really tried to meet the task to pass the test and who weren't able to and were very distraught over it.

Our ultimate goal is the delinking of citizenship as a criteria of eligibility for SSI. SSI beneficiaries are already very vulnerable. They're low income, elderly, disables and SSI provides a meager income that in many cases it's their lifeline.

Another solution that we are advocating for is increasing access to the citizenship through a number of different ways, one of which is supporting options for native language tests so allowing elders to take the test in their native language. And another option is increasing access to a truncated version of the test so it's a little bit shorter than the average standard test.

The last issue that I wanted to talk about briefly was around family unification or family reunification. For the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in the United States immigration to the United States has largely been through family reunification.

And for (unintelligible) especially what we've looked at is the impact of deportation of legal permanent residents or lawful permanent residents on family reunification.
So what we've seen is that there are since 1998 there are 13,000 Southeast Asian Americans who have received orders of removal meaning that at one point they might be sent back to Southeast Asia to Cambodia and Vietnam specifically.

And these are countries that they had fled as refugees. What we are really concerned about is that the impact of the deportation on the immediate family members including children or elderly parents who remain in the U.S.

For the elders the consequences of the loss of economic support and family caregiving is devastating and it's also extremely traumatic. Since many elders came as refugees, they brought their children as refugees and to have their children sent back to the country they fled from is devastating.

So in closing I just wanted to emphasize the particular circumstances that older immigrants and refugees face and that their age upon arrival should not determine their ability to access for goods and services in this country for instance SSI.

I also wanted to highlight the reality that so many immigrant families are mixed status but are also inter-generational. They have many grandparents and even grandchildren and there is an (unintelligible) status within the families.

And so immigration reform has a huge broad and very personal impact on families. And finally I also wanted to highlight and I think (unintelligible) there is a rally on April 10 at the National Mall at 3:00 pm and (Sieck) will be supporting with a number of diverse other - with a diverse number of other groups and I really hope that you can join us too.
I'm more than happy to answer any questions as I can and I'm going to hand the presentation over to (Eva), thank you.

Joe Caldwell: Hi (Eva) this is Joe we're not hearing you.

(Eva Damingas): I'm so sorry.

Joe Caldwell: Were you on mute?

(Eva Damingas): I was on mute yes I apologize.

Joe Caldwell: Okay that happens.

(Eva Damingas): I apologize everyone, hi this is (Eva Damingas). I am please to be here with you guys today and I wanted to also thank Joe and (Jason) for putting this presentation, this very important Webinar, very timely Webinar together.

Anyways I am the legislative representative for the Alliance for Retired Americans. The alliance is a national advocacy organization that focuses on issues affecting seniors particularly Medicare and Social Security.

We have 4 million members across the U.S. I am also the executive director of the Latino's for a secure retirement. This is a coalition that was founded two years ago to shed light on the importance of ensuring retirement security for Latino seniors.

And I'm here I will be speaking with you today about basically how immigration reform has the opportunity to or will be able to impact both Social Security and Medicare in quite a positive way.
There are two groups of people that I wanted to discuss with you that basically will benefit from a comprehensive immigration reform bill. And that is the dreamers that many of you have heard about and then of course undocumented workers.

And I basically want to call light to the dreamers because I think there’s a misperception that whatever the Administration did last year kind of fixed the whole problem for seniors - excuse me for dreamers.

And that basically they are in legal status now and that's not completely accurate. This basically what the Administration did last year was just provide a stopgap measure and it is until Congress can pass some sort of legislation like the DREAM Act or a more comprehensive immigration reform proposal.

Basically the deferred action that the Administration put forward provides a two-year renewable grant so that if you have entered the U.S. before the age of 16 or - and are younger than 30 and you meet certain requirements then you would be able to stay here and not be deported.

And those requirements are that you would have to have continuously lived in the U.S. for the last five years, not convicted of a felony or a significant misdemeanor, you're currently in school, graduated from high school or earned a GED or serve in the military.

This deferred action allows you to get a work permit but that does not necessarily mean that you are in, you know, lawful status as we think of someone who is a legal permanent resident.
It also does not permit you to get a green card, you're not allowed to sponsor a family member and in many cases maybe not be able to travel abroad. So it's not - it is just a stopgap like I said until Congress is able to pass something more comprehensive for the dreamers or for this comprehensive reform.

Going now to the undocumented workers, which is also the other group that will greatly benefit. There is the way people are documented is that they either entered the U.S. without a Visa and basically they crossed the border or they overstayed their Visa.

And I just want to clarify something and that is, you know, I hear all the time and that is that, you know, why did these people break the law, they should have done as everyone else, you know, that's trying to get into the country they should have done it legally.

Well many of these individuals don't qualify to come here legally. They don't have a close member that can sponsor them or they don't have the skills that would qualify them to get an H-1B Visa.

So the fact that they came here the way they did is because they're for the most part these people would not have qualified coming the legal channels. Once they're here though these individuals do contribute to the economy.

They contribute by paying payroll taxes, they - and how do they pay these payroll taxes? Well some have Social Security numbers that were issued to them for instance if a student came here to go to school they get a Social Security number.

That doesn't entitle them to work but some of those individuals may have overstayed their Visa and used that number. There's people also have - or
undocumented workers have also gotten stolen Social Security numbers that they use so that they are able to show that to their employer and can get a job.

And the other thing that has happened quite a bit is that undocumented workers have gotten - have contacted the IRS and gotten a taxpayer ID number. And they - many undocumented workers do this for a couple of reasons.

One is that they don't want to be seen as mooching off of society, they want to basically contribute and then the other reason is they want to do this because they hope that when comprehensive immigration reform occurs that they'll be able to show that they have contributed.

And back in 2006 there were 2.5 million people that were paying taxes through this taxpayer ID, with this taxpayer ID number. In 2010 there were basically 1.6 million people that contacted the IRS to get these numbers.

So clearly many undocumented workers want to pay taxes both, you know, federal taxes as well as their pay into Social Security and Medicare. In fact there's about 1/3 is the - 1/3 of the undocumented workers are contributing both to Social Security and Medicare.

As far as the undocumented workers pay into Social Security there is about 11, you know, as we've heard before there is about 11 million, 11.5 million undocumented individuals in the U.S.

I have 3.1 million undocumented are paying into Social Security and also Medicare. Those numbers kind of fluctuate because obviously the numbers are higher if they were hired before the recession.
Since the recession some people have self-deported they're no longer here and then many folks have lost their jobs. So that number, you know, is higher than the 3.1 I think that's the number that I've seen more recently.

As far as how much money they are contributing they are according to the Social Security Chief Actuary Stephen Goss approximately 120 billion to 240 billion is being contributed by undocumented workers.

And the way that they contribute is that basically money goes into the Social Security system and it gets put into like what is called a suspense file. And that's where their contributions are.

And the suspense file holds monies that are put in by undocumented workers but also individuals that may have given the Social Security Administration an incorrect Social Security number.

So according to Social Security about 3/4 of the money in this suspense fund is from undocumented workers. And if we just look at one year, if we just look at 2010 there - basically the amount that was put in to Social Security and Medicare combined was $10.7 billion.

So that would mean that $8.2 billion has gone into Social Security and Medicare trust funds. Again the number fluctuates depending on how many immigrants are in the country.

So it's been higher at times and, you know, it's been lower at other times. The total that is in the trust fund currently is about 150 billion, that's what is not claimed.
And then there are estimates by the Congressional Budget Office that there would be an additional like 57 billion by 2017. So it's over $200 billion that is in there that is unclaimed.

Now as far as Medicare that's another area where we have where undocumented workers are contributing. Between 2001 and 2010 $20.8 billion was paid to Medicare, to the Medicare trust fund.

Now the thing about again about paying into the trust fund and this is something that I didn't mention in Social Security is that unless a - an undocumented worker becomes legalized they will never be able to get access to the funds that are being paid into the trust fund.

So they will not be able to get a retirement benefit and that is true for Social Security as well as Medicare. For Medicare an undocumented worker would not be able to have access.

You again to qualify you have to be a U.S. citizen or a legal resident, resided in the U.S. a minimum of five years and work 10 years in covered employment.

Now what we have found is that some folks may be here - may have been here for a number of years but if they don't qualify for the 10 years of covered employment then they simply they would have to pay for their Part A premiums and that cost is about $441 a month.

So it's quite, quite high for these individuals. And the other thing I wanted to point out is that and we find this a lot with Latino immigrants that many of them are going back home to retire.
And once they leave the U.S. while they're able to get their - provided they're legal and/or a U.S. citizen they're able to get their Social Security benefits but if they go overseas they do not get their Medicare benefits.

So those people if they do retire overseas would not get those - their benefits. So that's just something to consider particularly because that means that they will be using less Medicare benefits if they go overseas and I have seen that happen quite a bit.

The other area where the undocumented workers are contributing is in taxes and in all kind of taxes. The CDO estimates that undocumented workers pay about 66 billion over a 10-year period in revenues.

And the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy estimates that undocumented pay about 1.6 billion in property taxes and about 8.4 billion in sales taxes and this was just in 2010.

Also wanted to mention this is another amount that - another figure that I came across and it makes sense. If undocumented are paying around 8 to, you know, 12 billion a year in Social Security, you know, over a 50-year period what the National Foundation for American Study estimates is another 407 billion would go into the Social Security system.

So this is something that, you know, would obviously be very positive for the Social Security trust fund. Now I wanted to talk about the, you know, the arguments for because we definitely think that there are very good arguments to get the undocumented workers to become legalized.
And that is that if you legalize them the number of individual paying into Social Security and into Medicare would double. So we would have a lot more paying into the system.

Also a very big thing is that the immigrant population in particular the undocumented workers are very young, in fact 59% of them are between the years - between the ages of 25 and 44 years of age.

They also have children and so not only are they going to be paying into the system for a very long time but their children are going to be paying into the Social Security system.

And then the other of course the other argument is that while we do have many of these undocumented workers not everyone is paying into - paying federal taxes. So while they are paying maybe paying payroll taxes not all of them are, you know, obviously some that have homes are paying property taxes, they're paying different taxes and some are paying federal taxes but not all of them. If you legalize all of them then they will all be able to contribute.

And my last slide is just one to talk about how legalization for these undocumented workers is by no means going to be an easy process and I know (Jenny) touched on this.

That basically the process is going to be very long, that there's been all kinds of proposals that have been out there about going back to the Kennedy, you know, to the Kennedy Bill about what these individuals would have to do.

They would have to register with the government, they would have to pay a fine, they would - they basically would be given a provisional or probationary
legal status to work but it will take them a really long time to become legal
permanent residents.

Some of the proposals that have been discussing that basically they'd have to
wait and be at the end of the line. (Jenny) mentioned that there's a 4.4 million
backlog and that it could take years or maybe even decades for that backlog to
be - to disappear.

So again these individuals would be in the system for a very long time. It's not
going to be something overnight. There are many, many costs associated with
it and I just wanted to go back to the Kennedy Bill.

That was filed a few years ago that had a penalty of $1000. There was also a
processing fee of $3000 plus $500, which would be what they'd have to pay
for the impact on the state.
And then they would have to pay an additional $4000 to become a legal
permanent resident. So that you're talking about $8500 and then they would
also have to pay 3 - they would have had to pay 3 years of the past 5 years in
back taxes.

And then I wanted to mention one other idea that just recently was brought up
that if these individuals have to pay back taxes, you know, how would they
calculate that.

That would be something that would be very complex, very complicated to
come up with, you know, how many years were they here, you know, how
much do they owe.
So a professor at the University of Chicago also (Nova Lariat), (Gary Becker) and then professor (Edward Lazeer) from Stanford University recommended that they pay a flat fee of $50,000.

So this is not going to be something that is going to be at all cheap for these undocumented workers. They will be contributing in a number of ways, they're going to be paying penalties, paying processing fees, paying back taxes.

So it will not be anything that is going to be - they're not getting off scott free if this comprehensive immigration reform goes through. Thank you very much.

Joe Caldwell: Thanks (Eva) and I want to thank all the presenters and the people tuning in you can't see the comments coming in but we got so many positive comments from people on the Webinar about the presentations.

I think more than we've ever had on any other Webinar so they really were great presentations. And I want to remind people how to ask a question. You got to the chat function at the bottom left hand corner.

And go there and type in your question and we have, you know, about 15 or 20 minutes to take some questions. So go ahead and do that and (Jason) and I are going to keep an eye on the questions that come in.

But first thing I just wanted to say is, you know, we've been doing a lot of outreach to aging and disability organizations and, you know, talking to them about immigration reform and getting them more involved.
And, you know, a lot of the disability and community and aging community kind of look at you puzzled about, you know, what does immigration reform have to do with people with disabilities or seniors.

And I think today's Webinar just really illustrates all the many, many different issues that are so relevant to seniors, people with disabilities from, you know, the direct care workforce to access to benefits to the impact on families and, you know, some of the procedures that might be in place that could discriminate against people with disabilities.

So I think it's up, you know, to all of us to communicate that to the rest of the community and really help people see how relevant it is to people with disabilities and seniors.

So I think, you know, with that we'll take some of the questions and there's a lot coming in now. And some good questions came up earlier that we can start with.

One question and I don't know if there is a good answer to this but is there any idea about the proportion of the direct care workforce that is currently undocumented?

And I don't know if (Serita) or other folks have any sense of that?

(Serita): Yes this is (Serita) that's a really fantastic question and frankly it's really complicated because, you know, actually domestic work - the national domestic workers alliance, which is the other sort of co-anchor of the caring across generations campaign just did sort of the first study.
Looking at this workforce and trying to determine more information about the workforce itself because so many of these workers, direct care workers, domestic workers work in peoples homes it's very hard to actually find a full number.

So the short answer is we don't have a full picture but through stories and through the existing organizations that are organizing domestic workers and other caregivers we're clear that there is a large documented population.

That we've very hopeful through this campaign to win immigration reform we're going to be able to bring out of the shadows and really onto a pathway to citizenship soon.

Joe Caldwell: Yes, yes and just, you know, a couple other statistics this isn't undocumented but right now I think the estimates are about 20 to 25% of the direct care workforce is foreign born.

(Serita): Right.

Joe Caldwell: And when you think about, you know, the future in terms of people needing long-term care with the aging of the baby boom generation it's just, you know, where are the workers going to come from it really is connected to immigration.

(Jason) did you see any questions you want to ask the panel?

(Jason): Sure, someone asked just something that I think other people might have wondered. And it's, so how do immigrants pay their taxes? Is there a, you know, a certain form that they fill out or how to...
(Eva Damingas): Yes they basically would ask for a taxpayer identification number, the would contact the IRS. And that would be sent to you and then once you complete a form you would get that number and that's how you would pay your taxes.

So it would go directly to, you know, the IRS would have that - that's where you would have to go.

Joe Caldwell: And here's another question that is a good one an issue that's confusing to me too. The question, I'll just read it it says when legally permanent residents have access to benefits when they apply for citizenship they have to be seen as not being financially self-sufficient.

I think this is getting at the issue of public charge or being self-sufficient. Can anybody explain that more how that works or, you know, for people with disabilities.

(Jenny): I can start I can jump in this is (Jenny). The public charge determination is tricky and it is the one thing to remember is that the public charge determination is made at - when someone gets their green card when they get LPR status.

So once someone gets their green card it doesn't matter there is no public charge determination for citizenship. So it's just that's a green card step and yes it's a test, it's something that the immigration official has to determine whether this person is going to ever be financial - is ever going to be dependent on the government for their subsistence.

And the government has the USDIS the immigration services have issued pretty clear guidance on what it means to be dependent on the government for their subsistence.
And they outlined that it's really just a cash benefit programs that are an issue. That health programs including Medicaid even including like discounted care at hospitals, including emergency Medicaid, food programs and housing programs all of those kinds of things do not count for the public charge determination.

It's really just (Hanus) and SSI that are issued as well as long-term care in an institution like on Medicaid.

Joe Caldwell: Yes okay.

(Jenny): So health programs should be okay in any non-cash programs.

Joe Caldwell: Yes I've heard I think because it's so confusing I've heard also it's just like the area of fear that people might not apply for benefits because they're afraid that they might be, you know, seen as a...

(Jenny): Yes.

Joe Caldwell: ...public charge or, you know, people or someone with a disability might not apply for the benefit.

(Jenny): Right on the public charge determination it's subjective and they look age, they look at ability to work, they look at disability, they look at health status, they look at a whole number of things.

But in terms of the actual benefit programs it's pretty specific. And I'd be happy to share the link to the guidance from USCIS that goes through the different programs that they look at and the different programs they don't.
But you're absolutely right it comes from the immigration lawyer who is counseling their clients don't apply for any benefit programs we want, you know, a super clean case.

We want it to go through really easily and not have any questions but sometimes the guidance from the government can help people feel comfortable applying for benefits.

Also realizing that it's just the green card interview and not naturalization can also help too.

Woman: Joe?

Joe Caldwell: Yes.

Woman: Okay I wanted to answer, someone was asking about LPR legal permanent resident what that stands for and I just wanted to, you know, clarify that that is a person that has a green card, what you've heard of as a green card.

And it's basically they're here legally they cannot be deported they are in every sense of the word would qualify for, you know, pretty much anything as a citizen but they would not be able to vote, I mean that's why many people become citizens or obviously there are many more things that - many more benefits that you have if you're a citizen.

But basically if you're a legal permanent resident, you're here legally by every sense of the word, you have a green card and one of the things that I wanted to I think I forgot to mention going back to the dreamers and the deferred action is that deferred action can be revoked at any time without notice.
So that does not give them - does not give them a green card, it does not make them here permanent, legally here permanently. It is for however long the Administration wants to keep it so it's - that's why it's really important for comprehensive immigration reform to happen for undocumented workers and for dreamers as well.

Joe Caldwell: Yes the other issue, you know, with the dreamers that I've heard, you know, in the disability community like you have to have a high school diploma or a high school graduation or a GED.

And, you know, there's so many barriers for people, students with disabilities to meet some of that. Like if they only did the dreamers like, you know, that in itself would sort of exclude a lot of students with disabilities.

(Renny): Yes absolutely - this is (Renny) absolutely and especially if you start talking about English, English language learners who have disabilities. So, you know, as we all know for folks who are learning English and as young people are learning English and then you add on the need for accommodations that may not be provided or parents or guardians need to fight the school to just get those basic rights, you know, recognized by the school system.

And, you know, if you are afraid of being deported, you know, how much noise are you going to really make. So your young, you know, your child will be able to get education that's accessible to the child and so, you know, it talks about that intersection again it goes to that intersection I talked about in my presentation.

Joe Caldwell: Yes. (Jason) did you see any other good questions?
(Jason): So there was a question related to direct care workers and something related to a (unintelligible). Is there any possibility that direct care workers might fall under the category of a (unintelligible) and so who is - who if anyone is working on that and what are the possibilities of that happening?

(Serita): This is (Serita), you know, as we through the caring across generations campaign have been developing and thinking about what a care worker program would look like, an immigrant care worker program.

We definitely are looking at options around future immigrants coming into this country and the opportunities around that and looking at the possibilities of sort of looking at the model of what STEM is sort of putting - what the STEM model is to see what's applicable to the direct care workforce.

It's really complicated I think it's important to keep in mind that, you know, for folks who don't know what STEM stands for I mean it's really about sort of science, technology, engineering, you know, that sort of realm of workers.

And there's been a real push for there to be an expedited pathway to citizenship for those workers. And we explored early on the possibility of figuring out whether we could really make the case for the need for care workers given what we know is a gap that's coming up.

And we were looking at creative ways of sort of looking at the model of what STEM is putting out there to sort of inform the kind of protections we want to have in place for care, future care workers.

But I think we're really clear that we won't be able to duplicate what STEM is and our involvement and all of our voices on this call being involved in the debate is so critical at this moment because the way in which STEM is being
talked about is about as if it's really just sort of these high skilled workers that are critical to our economy and fuel our economy.

And that somehow they need sort of - they need a special path and it totally dismisses the realities of low wage workers in particular caregivers who we know make all other work possible.

And we've been a part of trying to make the argument that actually care workers are a really big component of fueling our economy as well. And so it's important for us to have an inclusive pathway to citizenship.

To make sure care workers are in fact included as we think about a pathway to citizenship for the existing care workforce but also for future flow and make it as easy as possible for workers to come into this country and get what they need, the protections that they need to really get on a pathway to citizenship if that's what they want.

So it's complicated but I think we're, you know, we're really trying to blow open the debate and make sure we're being clear that care workers are incredibly important to again fueling our economy and that we need to make sure they're included in any kind of immigration proposal moving forward. So I hope that helps a bit.

Joe Caldwell: Yes and I wanted to go back to the Medicaid issue just a little bit because I know a lot of people on the call work on home and community based services and Medicaid issues all the time.

And I think that's just such a critical issue, you know, to understand about not only the five-year ban that exists right now but also the provisional status that could be added to that.
So you could have people waiting, you know, over a decade for to be able to access Medicaid and I think everybody on the call knows how important that is to people with disabilities.

So like what happens, you know, when somebody develops a disability and they can't get access to, you know, long-term services and support. So (Jenny)...

(Jenny): I know the answer to that, they go to institutions, they go to a county institution, you know.

Joe Caldwell: Yes, yes but (Jenny) you touched upon this and there's a lot of ways they could approach that like getting rid of the ban totally, which would be ideal. But like some of the other options that they might, you know, want to - could look at around that issue could you touch on those?

(Jenny): Well I think one positive thing and a precedent that we have is what was passed in the reauthorization of the CHIP program for kids and pregnant women.

So what that did in 2009 is it got rid of the 5-year bar for kids and pregnant women and it also expanded the category of eligibility from this restricted qualified group to the larger lawfully present group of kids and pregnant women.

I mean there's not a whole lot of people who are lawfully present but not a green card holder but there's still some and it's possible that people in provisional status could be considered lawfully present for that purpose.
And so we have the precedent for kids and making it a state option for coverage for kids without a 5-year waiting period. And I think that's also something that might be possible to look at or to push for is a state option.

I don't think the state has to - is much into doing anything mandatory after the Supreme Court decision last year. But a state option for states to provide Medicaid coverage to - without a 5-year waiting period or to provide it to lawfully present folks instead of the smaller qualified folks.

And so that would catch a lot more people and get rid of the 5-year bar. And that was popular, about 20 - about half of the states picked up the option CHIP option for kids and pregnant women.

And it's a wide variety of states from Democrat states with large immigrant populations to Republican states and (unintelligible) states that were just looking for some extra to help provide coverage base folks.

And so that's another possibility that we've heard some optimism about.

Joe Caldwell: Yes and it is interesting like I think what (Eva) said like what happens is if they don't get, you know, access to Medicaid like not only for long-term care but, you know, you're talking about people that probably have chronic conditions or disabilities that could develop secondary disabilities.

And, you know, really end up costing the system a heck of a lot more by the time they do get access to Medicaid. So just from...

(Jenny): Yes.

Joe Caldwell: ...a cost point of view it's good for the states, you know.
(Jenny): And for providers and I think the provider voice is really critical here. So it's not just, you know, the immigrant advocates and health advocates but also the provider voices.

Woman: I see a question here about (prucall) permanently residing under color of law about that coming back and I just wanted to point out that (prucall) is a category of immigrants that we used to talk about in a public benefit context. And it's kind of morphed into lawfully present so I think you can think of the lawfully present categories immigrants as being very similar to the (prucall) for folks who are familiar with what (prucall) means and I think lawfully present is very similar.

(Serita): Hey Joe this is (Serita). I just wanted to go back because I was reading the question again around the STEM thing if I could just make one more quick point.

Joe Caldwell: Sure.

(Serita): Because really the question was if direct care immigrant workforce might want to bring their aging relatives here how will we deal with it if family based Visa's are behind some Visa's and I don't think I answered that question. So I just very briefly want to say as a campaign and working with lots of direct care - the direct care immigrant workforce I mean we really have tried very hard to continue to advocate pretty hard on family based Visa's and the need to keep families together.

And in fact, you know, the domestic workers alliance has been working with lots of organizations, women's organizations in particular to really send a
strong message about, you know, we belong together, the families belong together.

So we've been trying really hard to advocate very strongly on the Hill to Congress that we need to make sure that we're uniting families not separating them.

So how that will play out once we see an actual bill and what happens with the STEM Visa's I think is so unknown but we're advocating pretty strong on the family based Visa's.

Joe Caldwell: Great thanks and (Serita) I just wanted to turn it back over to you we're kind of running out of time but, you know, there's an action day on the Hill that's coming up that I know you wanted to tell people about.

(Serita): Yes thank you Joe I appreciate that. You know, at caring across generations we believe that the voice of aging adults and people with disabilities is not only important on a range of issues around public benefits and other issues that people tend to think are where aging adults and people with disabilities voices need to be leading.

But we think that the voices of aging adults and people with disabilities needs to really be listed up and on all the issues that our nation is facing today. And we think immigration reform is a huge opportunity for that to make sure that all of our voices (unintelligible) and on this major debate.

And so in addition to the mobilization that I think (Ivy) mentioned on April 10 where, you know, thousands of people are mobilizing to DC to show their support for immigration reform we would like to invite you to join us on April 16 for our consumer advocacy day.
And there's a slide that you can see that gives more details but we will be doing, you know, just further advancing this discussion and having a panel at 10:00 am on immigration aging and disability rights.

We'll do a lunch and then advocacy overview and then we'll be visiting with legislative staff in the afternoon. We would really again just want to extend this invitation to all of you we would love for you to be a part of this.

We hope that this Webinar was helpful to you in getting a much better grasp of the issues at play and just again fundamentally how important all these issues are and how they're interconnected.

And we really need your voice out there to be supporting immigration reform right now. And just want to close by saying for more information about the advocacy day you can go to - you can email (Trashalla) that's on the slide there (Trashalla Deb) is our coordinator on that front and you can just email her directly.

Just in general for more information about the campaign and some of our positions on immigration reform you can go to our Web site at www.caringacrossgenerations.org.

Joe Caldwell: Great and before people jump off I want to share one more resource that we've all been working on and it's a white paper or a policy brief that we're releasing today that actually covers a lot of the issues that were talked about on the Webinar and, you know, it's something that's really meant for the aging and disability communities to help educate them about some of these issues in immigration reform.
And it's something that you can use so you can access the brief by going to the URL that's up on the screen. It's on the NCOA Web site right now and please, you know, use it and share it and also share this Webinar when you get a copy of the slides in the archives Webinar next week with anybody else that you know that might be interested in this topic.

And I think with that I'll bring everything to a close and again really thank the excellent presentations from the panel and the questions from the audience and people on the Webinar.
And thank you and have a good afternoon.

Operator:  Ladies and gentlemen that does conclude the Webinar for today. We thank you for your participation and ask that you please disconnect.

END