

ABOUT THE PUBLIC CHARGE PROPOSED RULE

On October 10, the Department of Homeland Security published a proposed new rule that would punish immigrants who *legally* access health, housing or nutrition programs. Many of these immigrants would no longer be eligible for green cards, even if they are the spouse, parent, or child of a U.S. citizen. **The government said the new rule could affect about 382,000 people a year.**

Previously, the government only restricted immigration applications if it determined an immigrant would likely depend on cash assistance or need long-term medical care in an institution at the government's expense. Now, the bar will be much higher and impossible for many average, hardworking people to overcome. **The proposed new rule has one central goal: to make America open only to the wealthy.**

Our society has already determined that immigrants should be able to receive certain benefits to help keep their families fed, healthy and sheltered. Now, **families will be faced with impossible decisions – immigration status to keep their family stable and protected from deportation or food, healthcare and housing.**

TAKE ACTION: OPPOSE THE PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

The proposal is not final and is open for review and public comment through December 10, 2018. Please use your voice to speak out on this issue and encourage others to do the same!

The government is required to read and respond to each **unique** comment before any final changes are made. Include personal experience, perspective and language to ensure that your comment is seen as unique and thus counted.

Comments can be made here: <https://bit.ly/2C5AYdz>

SAMPLE COMMENTS (SEE FLIP SIDE)

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1. I strongly oppose the Department of Homeland Security's shameful proposed rule change to public charge. The proposed policy will make immigrant families afraid to access essential health, nutrition and shelter programs. By forcing choices no family should have to make, it puts our whole country at risk.

2. I oppose this proposed rule change. I am a Jew, and Jewish tradition places great importance on how we treat immigrants, commanding just treatment of the "stranger" in over 36 ways and emphasizing it more than any other law in all of Scripture. Leviticus teaches, 'When strangers sojourn with you in your land, you shall not do them wrong. The strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as the natives among you, and you shall love them as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt' [19:33-34]. Compelling people to choose between caring for their health and well-being and their immigration status is not loving; it is callous.

3. I oppose this proposed rule change. As a member of the American Jewish community [and the child/grandchild/great-grandchild of an immigrant], I know of times in my own family history when people have fallen on hard times, and it is no different for immigrants today. Keeping immigrants from becoming permanent residents - the only path to citizenship - just because they get help feeding their children or paying for medicine is needlessly cruel and reflects the worst of what we can be, rather than the best of what we have been as a nation built upon the strength of immigrant families.

4. I object to this proposed rule change. Public benefits exist to help all hardworking families in America who need a little assistance to make ends meet. Placing this insurmountable barrier between immigrant families and the safety net could have disastrous effects on these families. States and localities would also be negatively impacted, due to decreased participation in programs that improve the health and well-being of their communities.

5. I oppose this proposed rule change. It has not been proven that the new public charge tests have any actual bearing on immigrants' potential. They seem more like barriers to prevent less affluent applicants from entering, and potentially reuniting with family members already in the United States. No changes should be made and the current definition of public charge should remain in place.

6. I object to this proposed rule change, which would have a devastating effect on children, seniors or people with disabilities; individuals with limited English or poor credit history or limited education; and/or those who have a large family. The very premise upon which this country is based, the notion that anyone, of any means, with any education level, can build a new, successful life in this nation flies in the face of these suggested changes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.ProtectingImmigrantFamilies.org