

ACTION ALERT ON 'PUBLIC CHARGE'

A proposed change will make immigrant families choose between health care and food or risk their families being separated.

As Hispanic healthcare providers, we stand together in advocating for the health of all persons including all immigrants. It is imperative that our members unite to provide unique accounts regarding the negative impact any proposed changes would have on public health.

On October 10, 2018, the Department of Homeland Security introduced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking related to the “public charge” ground of inadmissibility under INA section 212(a)(4). This was published in the Federal Register and open for a *60-day comment period* from the general public. This time period will expire on December 10, 2018. DHS Docket No. USCIS-2010-0012.

Background

To receive a “green card” to become a permanent resident in the United States, a determination must be made by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services based on factors relating to: age, health, family status, assets, resources, financial status, education and skills. Since the 1990s, an immigrant was deemed inadmissible if they were likely to become a “public charge” and receive government-sponsored assistance. That term was applied to someone who was likely to receive Social Security Income (SSI), Temporary Cash Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), State general assistance programs that provide cash, and long-term care in nursing homes or mental health institutions paid for by Medicaid.

Proposed Change

The new proposed change to the definition of “public charge” seeks to expand the range of inadmissible assistance to include Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), cost-sharing subsidies under Medicare, non-emergency Medicaid, Section 8 public housing vouchers, and threatens WIC and Child Health Plus (CHP) that provide children’s healthcare and food.

Action

During the period of public comment, we are asking you to describe the impact that it could have on the immigrant community from a public health perspective. The more unified voices that speak out on this issue, the more likely we will be heard.

- 1. Please [click here](#) to write your personal comment.***
- 2. Describe your healthcare perspective within your community.***
- 3. Share this link with your sphere of influence.***
- 4. Choose “submit for a third party” if you are writing on behalf someone else.***
- 5. Last date of submission: December 10, 2018.***

**The Voice of
Hispanic Nurses**



**Nursing Code of
Ethics**

Provision Eight of the Nursing Code of Ethics mandates nurses to collaborate with other health professionals and the public to protect human rights, promote health diplomacy, and reduce health disparities.