



Trump Administration Proposes Radical Changes to Longstanding Immigration Rules That Will Hurt Children and Families

Earlier this week, the Trump Administration posted a proposal on the Department of Homeland Security's website that will radically change a longstanding federal immigration rule known as "public charge" and have a chilling effect on the use of critical anti-poverty programs by children and families who are legally present in the United States. The draft rule, which has yet to be published in the Federal Register, would substantially expand the number of programs that may be considered in determining who is likely to become a public charge to include – for the first time – non-emergency Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), housing assistance, and the Medicare Part D low income subsidy. While use of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) was not included in the proposed rule, DHS did solicit input on its inclusion in the final rule. The proposed rule also puts wealthy families ahead of others who have been waiting for years to be reunited by adopting a new income threshold for those immigrating to the U.S., not just the sponsor. This represents yet another attack by this Administration on immigrants of color, on whom it will have a disproportionate effect.

In response to this proposed "public charge" rule, Children's Defense Fund–California Executive Director Shimica Gaskins released the following statement:

"For over a hundred years, the government has recognized that health, nutrition and housing supports can help families survive and thrive. The proposed rule would turn this presumption on its head, making legal use of important anti-poverty supports including Medicaid and SNAP a disqualifier for immigration. This will result in an even more uneven playing field for California children, and put millions at greater risk of hunger, poor health and poverty.

If the rule moves forward, the health and well-being of California children, families and communities will needlessly suffer. There is no question that this is yet another effort on the part of this Administration to homogenize our country and levy a direct attack on immigrant

communities of color and further perpetuate the separation of families. Children's Defense Fund–California joins our partners in opposing this unjust, immoral and xenophobic proposal in the strongest possible terms. Diversity is our nation's strength and we denounce yet another attack on our nation's immigrants. We call on our elected leaders to work together to reject this divisive proposal and to level the playing field for all children in America instead of erecting new barriers.”