

## EMBARGOED UNTIL

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## 1,500+ organizations launch nationwide push against Trump regulation rigging immigration system for the wealthy

*Proposal Would Deny Immigrants for Meeting Basic Needs*

WASHINGTON – More than 1,500 national, state, and local advocates representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia spoke out Wednesday, urging the public to oppose dangerous new Trump Administration regulations proposed this morning. Advocates for immigrant families, economic opportunity, health, nutrition, women, and faith communities signed a joint statement (below) urging the American people to submit public comments opposing the regulation.

The Administration’s “public charge” regulation effectively restricts immigration access based on income. It would put people at risk of immigration denials if they use Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicare’s prescription drug benefit, housing assistance, or other programs. Experts warn that the plan would worsen hunger, unmet health and housing needs, and other problems by making immigrant families — including families with U.S.-born children — afraid to get the help they need. The proposal gives preference to applicants with annual incomes above \$62,000. Advocates warned that the proposal would put wealthy immigrants ahead of families and expands a policy that has been historically abused.

“The proposal is reckless, deeply unfair, and inconsistent with core American values. It equates worth with wealth and moves families who have already waited years to the end of the line. But the law gives us all a voice on proposed regulations, so we can still stop this one. We urge all who care about children and economic opportunity to fight back, by submitting public comments and encouraging others to speak out,” said Olivia Golden, executive director of the Center for Law and Social Policy.

White House aide Stephen Miller, architect of the Administration’s child separation policy, is [reported](#) to have led the “public charge” effort. [Historians have warned](#) that public charge regulations have been abused in the past to deny otherwise-eligible applicants access to lawful immigration avenues, based on race and religion. Because it would primarily affect family-based immigrants, the Trump proposal will disproportionately affect families of color, especially Latinos and Asian-American and Pacific Islanders.

“The same Administration that used your tax dollars to tear babies from their mothers’ arms wants sweeping new powers to decide what American looks like. They’ve proven they can’t be trusted with that power, so we must not let them have it. Take the power back by submitting public comments

and demanding that our elected representatives tell you where they stand on this issue, before you step into the voting booth in November,” said Marielena Hincapié, executive director of the National Immigration Law Center.

Federal law requires that the Administration give the public an opportunity to comment on this expansive proposal, when and if it is formally proposed. Commenters will not be required to give their address or divulge their immigration status. Members of the public may post official comments through the advocacy website [www.protectingimmigrantfamilies.org](http://www.protectingimmigrantfamilies.org).

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