



Mayors Oppose the Proposed Public Charge Rule

The proposed public charge rule will harm residents, communities and economies in cities of all sizes across the country. **The rule would cause city residents to forgo needed health, nutrition and housing supports intended to help children and families thrive.** These impacts will be felt not just by the immigrants and their families, but also by all members of the community and the city.

Mayors across the country strongly oppose the public charge rule because of its impact on their city's immigrant residents and their families, the strain it will cause on the public health and social service infrastructure, and the harm to their city's economy.

What do mayors say about the proposed public charge rule?

"Many great Americans came to this country as immigrants, arriving with nothing and starting their journey from the bottom rung of the economic ladder. Our history has shown us that access to critical benefits are often necessary for a short time in order to help immigrants become assimilated and ultimately prosper in their new country. Clearly, it would not be in the best interest of our communities to impose further restrictions on non-cash benefits that would limit immigrants' growth, economic prosperity, and pursuit of happiness as Americans."

U.S. Conference of Mayors, Including 91 mayors

"Immigrants fill a real need for workers in agriculture, hospitality and other industry sectors. Later, they or their children often move up into more skilled jobs...but if workers are afraid that their families can never join them here, because a child has asthma or a spouse has diabetes, then they will seek a better life elsewhere. The public charge rule would create second class status for U.S. citizen members of immigrant families. Immigrant families would be afraid to claim, or continue to claim, benefits to which they are entitled, for fear of it counting against noncitizen family members...Thus, the rule would set up countless situations where there is no equal protection for U.S. citizens who happen to be members of immigrant families."

Jonathan Rothchild, Mayor, Tucson, AZ

"According to projections based on Los Angeles County enrollment data, the economic impact to our region due to populations withdrawing from benefits would be severe. Just over 1 million immigrant individuals in Los Angeles county currently receive TANF, MediCal, SNAP, and Section 8 benefits. The estimated annual cost to our local economy if 25% of immigrant households in LA County forgo benefits would be \$54,020,736 for SNAP (CalFresh) and \$8,458,560 TANF (CalWORKs). 8,050 immigrants receive Section 8 benefits in the City of Los Angeles. If every single American were to take this eligibility exam, 100 million Americans -- one third of the population -- would fail."

Eric Garcetti, Mayor, Los Angeles, CA

“While accounting for 16 percent of the labor force nationally and 18 percent of business owners, immigrants make up 28 percent of Main Street business owners. “Main Street” businesses are the shops and services that are the backbone of neighborhoods around the country. But America’s high-growth entrepreneurial economy—the onramp for many communities to global markets, investment, and jobs—is also dependent on immigrants. Fifty-five percent of American startups currently valued at more than \$1 billion or more, have an immigrant founder. Additionally, we know that the presence of all immigrant workers (legal and illegal) in the labor market makes the U.S. economy (GDP) an estimated 11 percent larger (\$1.6 trillion) each year. As leaders who directly interact with residents we serve every day, we can unequivocally say that this proposal would not only weaken our communities but the very fiber of who we are as a nation.”

Clarence E Anthony, CEO and Executive Director, National League of Cities
Karen Freeman-Wilson, Mayor, Gary, Indiana, President, National League of Cities

“This is not our America. Our America is not one where only those without a history of receiving any government assistance and their families are welcomed. As Borough President of The Bronx, a borough that has welcomed immigrants to The United States for multiple generations from the Jews of Eastern Europe, to West Africans, to Latinos from many nations, just to name a few; we cannot stand idly by in the face of this proposed rule and remain silent. New York State is estimated to be 23 percent foreign born, and immigrants are part of the fabric of our communities. The Bronx is estimated to be 40 percent foreign born. We are a nation of immigrants, and we must ask ourselves what the future of our great Nation will be if we allow xenophobia to infect every aspect of our lives.”

Ruben Diaz Jr., Borough President, the Bronx, NY

“San Francisco is the City of Saint Francis. We support one another; we defend one another. We are a diverse city that—like many other parts of the country—attracts and welcomes creative and hard-working people from around the world. More than a third of our residents are foreign-born, and their presence enriches our City every single day. Without these valued members of our community, we would not be San Francisco. [San Francisco] projects that the proposed rule may impose up to \$44.9 million in new charity care costs on our local hospitals. Of those costs, as much as \$26.9 million is expected to be borne by City operated hospitals and clinics. In addition, the proposed rule is projected to reduce federal funding to the City’s economy, which will in turn reduce jobs, growth, and taxes. For example, the proposed rule is expected to cause substantial declines in the number of residents aided by CalFresh and Medi-Cal. These programs have important economic impacts for the City: they allow clients to spend money on food and health care, bringing additional federal dollars to the local economy. If participation in CalFresh declines by 15 to 35 percent, the City’s economy will lose anywhere from \$3.3 to \$7.7 million annually. These are funds that would have supported our grocery stores and markets, and the people they employ. If we see a similar decline in Medi-Cal participation, we anticipate that the City’s economy will lose anywhere from \$54.5 to \$130.0 million annually.”

London N. Breed, Mayor, San Francisco

“The proposed policy is part of the current Administration’s larger agenda to radically reshape our legal immigration system, redefine who is worthy of being an American, and profoundly alter what we look like as a country. If this rule moves forward, no longer would we serve as a beacon for the world’s dreamers and strivers. Instead, America’s doors will be open only to the highest bidder. Tis proposal is a step backwards, not forward, in creating a more perfect union.”

David Narkewicz, Mayor, Northampton, MA

“These serious consequences not only affect the health and well-being of Plainfield’s children and families but also create a significant economic burden on the city. Specifically, these changes will adversely affect our municipal agencies charged with administering these programs and serving our communities, including schools and universities, child welfare agencies, public housing authorities, public health systems and hospitals.”

Adrian O. Matt, Mayor, Plainfield, NY (To OMB Director Mulvaney)

“This rule would impact families that have been separated in the process of immigrating to the United States and are trying to reunite. It would also impact immigrant families that are here already by discouraging them from applying for needed benefits. This proposal would prevent immigrants from using the programs their tax dollars help support, preventing access to healthy, nutritious food and secure housing.”

Allan Ekberg, Mayor, Tukwila, WA