



Members of Congress Oppose the Proposed Public Charge Rule

The proposed public charge rule will harm residents, communities and economies in every state in the country. As immigrants and their families forgo needed health care, food, and affordable housing, their health, wellbeing and economic stability are threatened. This will be felt not just by immigrants and their families, but also by all members of the community and the state.

U.S. Senators and Representatives of Congress from states across the country strongly oppose the public charge rule because of its impact immigrant residents and their families, the strain it will cause on the public health and social service infrastructure, and on their state's economies

What did Members of Congress say about public charge?

"As Members of the United States Senate responsible for setting federal policy regarding immigration and eligibility for public benefit programs, we are deeply concerned that the rule would mark a fundamental and unnecessary change in our nation's law."

Letter from 26 Senators, led by Senators Cortez-Masto, Menendez and Duckworth

"America's future depends on ensuring that working families, including immigrant families and their children, succeed. We need to invest in these families, rather than put their healthy development and education at risk by destabilizing them."

Letter from 111 Members of the House of Representatives, led by Reps. Jerrold Nadler, Zoe Lofgren and Adriano Espaillat

"This proposed rule will cause tremendous harm to the health and well-being of thousands of children, citizen and immigrant alike."

Senate Democratic Leaders

"The proposed rule would deter immigrants who are domestic violence and sexual assault survivors from using vital services they need to escape or recover from the violence they have suffered or continue to suffer."

Senator Mazie Hirono (HI-2)

"By expanding the definition of non-citizens who may be subject to a public charge determination, the Department would force legal immigrants to choose between putting food on the table and keeping their families together with a green card or other visa."

California Senator Kamala Harris and Representative Nanette Barragan (CA-44)

"Of particular concern to our Caucus is the effect of this proposed rule will have on Latino communities and all communities of color. Of the almost 26 million individuals who would be potentially impacted by this rule, approximately 90 percent (23.2 million) are people of color, 70 percent (18.2 million) who whom are Latino."

Congressional Hispanic Caucus

“The Chinese Exclusion Act was the nation's first law to explicitly name an entire ethnic group for exclusion and place such as broad restrictions on immigration, effectively determining which persons, based on their ancestry, were worthy of calling America home. It is in that same vein that the proposed public charge rule would target AAPI immigrants and their families by having a dramatic impact on immigration patterns.”

Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus

“This policy will have a detrimental effect on the children of lawful immigrants and their future generations, further hindering their paths to success.”

Washington Senator Patty Murray

“This proposed rule would harm my constituents and runs counter to the longstanding intent of Congress. The proposed rule's claim on authority to rewrite swaths of the Social Security act by administrative fiat would undermine the authority of the Finance Committee.”

Oregon Senator Ron Wyden

“Our immigration laws and rules should be designed to attract and welcome those who are willing and able to contribute to our economy, but this proposal will make it more difficult for the spouses and children of U.S. citizens to obtain green cards.”

4 Republican and 4 Democratic Members of the House

“We are concerned about the harm this rule will have on the health and well-being of children, including reduced access to and participation in federal child nutrition programs”

All Democratic Members of the House Education & Workforce Committee

“This scrutiny will intimidate many Oregonians and residents of the United States from using programs that are essential for their livelihoods.”

Members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation

“Congress is responsible for making decisions about the eligibility of immigrants for benefits under federal health programs, and it is highly inappropriate for DHS to override Congress' intent and effectively deny immigrants access to Medicaid benefits”

Democratic Leaders of the House Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce Committees

“The proposed rule would also have a racially discriminatory effect against black immigrants.”

Congressional Black Caucus

“Across Massachusetts, health care providers are distressed by the ramifications of these proposals on the health of their patients and communities.”

Massachusetts Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey

“We emphasize that this rule has a substantial cost to New York City. 38 percent of the City's residents are immigrants, and more than half of the city's children have a foreign-born parents.”

Members of Congress Representing New York City

“The proposed rule would lead to worse health outcome, increasing housing instability, and reduced productivity and educational achievement throughout our communities. This would have a negative, lasting effects in Colorado on both immigrants and non-immigrants alike.”

Members of Colorado Congressional Delegation

“All people, regardless of their immigration status, should have the ability to make decisions about their own bodies, health and families based on their own health and circumstances.”

Members of the Congressional Pro-Choice Caucus

“The proposed rule is a violation of our nation's values and history that welcomes those who believe in the promise of safety, freedom and opportunity.”

Representative Chellie Pingree (ME-1)

“Minnesota has a proud history of welcoming immigrants and refugees from every continent, nation, and culture, and that has helped to make our communities and economy strong. We are extremely concerned that our community members could face lasting harm as a result of this proposed rule.”

**Minnesota Senators
Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar**

“Finalizing this rule would elevate fear and division, and immigrant families would be afraid to seek the help they and their families need to sustain their health and wellbeing, nutrition, housing, and economic security.”

Representative Debbie Dingell (MI-12)

“As history has shown, complex changes to how immigrants enter into the United States have a harsh, far-reaching chilling effect on both American citizens and immigrants who are exempt from the public charge determination.”

Representative Gene Green (TX-29)

“I am significantly concerned that Medicaid and possibly CHIP’s inclusion in the proposed rule would severely impact these programs and their provision of services to pregnant women and new mothers.”

Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40)

“This is an Administration that has proposed a “Muslim ban” on immigration, the first versions of which were found to be unconstitutional by U.S. courts. President Trump has maligned those seeking to come to the United States from “shithole countries. With that record, I believe it is not unjustified to believe that this process could be subject to political pressures, biases and discrimination. For that reason alone, this proposed rule should be withdrawn”

Representative Jan Schakowsky (IL-9)

“I believe the intent of the Proposed Rule is to instill fear in the immigrant community and weaken safety net programs that Congress enacted to provide health, nutrition, and housing support to eligible recipients, including immigrants.”

Representative Gwen Moore (WI-4)