



## State Policymakers Oppose the Proposed Public Charge Rule

The proposed public charge rule will create harm to the residents, communities and economies in all states across the country. **The proposed rule impacts the ability of state residents to access needed health care services, food nutrition services and affordable housing.** Without these programs, state residents will forgo needed supports intended to assist them in maintaining economic self-sufficiency. These impacts will be felt not just by the immigrants and their families, but also by the whole state.

Governors, State Agency Leaders, and Attorneys General across the country strongly oppose the public charge rule because it will hurt their state's immigrant residents and their families; strain the public health and social service infrastructure; and harm their state's economy.

### What do state officials say about the proposed public charge rule?

*"The Proposed Rules will cause great harm to our State. The Department concedes in the preamble that the Proposed Rules will deter legally present visa holders from using important assistance programs. Over 140,000 Washington residents could lose health insurance because of the Proposed Rules. Women will lose routine reproductive care services, resulting in more unintended pregnancies, more high-risk deliveries, and increased costs for newborns whose health is compromised by the lack of adequate pre-natal care. Washingtonians will be forced into emergency rooms for routine medical care, jeopardizing our State's success in reducing uncompensated care and driving up state-funded alien emergency medical care. The Proposed Rules will cause residents of Washington to forego up to \$55.3 million annually in State food and cash benefits and \$198.7 million annually in medical care. If implemented, the Rules will reduce total economic output in Washington by up to \$97.5 million annually, cut Washingtonians' wages up to \$36.7 million annually, and eliminate anywhere from 334 to 782 jobs."*

**Washington State Governor Jay Inslee**  
**Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson**  
**City of Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan**

*"Approximately 25,000 children on Oregon's SNAP caseload in the past year have an immigrant family member. Our state already is experiencing an increase in applications for benefits due to fears that participation could affect a family member's immigration status. If children or families go hungry, it affects their ability to show up to work or school. This further affects local food banks and large grocery retailers, which are an integral part of the local economy. Every \$4 spent in SNAP benefits generates \$9 in local economic activity. When parents, families, and children have the opportunities and resources to survive and thrive, we all succeed."*

**Oregon State Governor Kate Brown**

*“The States have chosen to provide, and encourage use of, public assistance programs to increase the quality of life of their residents and to help people who are working, paying taxes, and making significant contributions to the States’ economies. In offering these programs, the States recognize that the public welfare of their citizenry is better served by ensuring that as many people as possible have access to essential services, such as affordable healthcare and childcare. Rather than create a burden on the States or taxpayers, these programs create opportunities for more individuals to enter and remain in the workforce and bolster the States’ economies... If finalized, the Proposed Rule will harm the States and their residents. The proposed expansion of “public charge” suggests that the United States is no longer a land of opportunity that welcomes ambitious but modest earners. The Proposed Rule infringes on fundamental rights, is contrary to law, and is the result of an arbitrary and capricious change in longstanding policy. It is bad law and worse policy.”*

**Attorneys General and Attorneys General-elect of Virginia, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Mexico, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington, DC.**

*“Colorado is the proud home to more than half a million immigrants, representing approximately 10 percent of our population. Immigrants help drive Colorado’s economy and enrich the fabric of our communities. The Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) proposed changes to public charge determinations would hurt hard-working families trying to come to the United States, and those who are here legally. Potential damage extends beyond our state’s immigrant population to Colorado’s economy. As immigrant families are forced to make choices between paying for food, health, or other necessities, local businesses will suffer. CFI estimates that if 15 percent of immigrant families disenroll from the programs included in the proposed rule, Colorado’s economy stands to lose nearly \$179 million and up to 1,217 jobs. If the rate of disenrollment is 35 percent, those costs would rise to \$417 million and 2,829 jobs.”*

**Colorado Governor John w. Hickenlooper**

*“An estimated 250,000 children in North Carolina will be impacted by this rule should their families withdraw from benefit programs, the overwhelming majority of whom are American citizens. This reflects children under 18 who live in a family that includes both a non-citizens and a family member that receives assistance. Having families withdraw from these programs can reduce their access to medical care, food nutrition services and safe housing which can have detrimental long-term effects on these children and our future generations.”*

**Mandy Cohen, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services**

*“If finalized in its current form, the Proposed Rule will directly and adversely impact the health and well-being of millions of Californians who are subject to public charge determinations and their families. It will also indirectly and adversely impact the health and well-being of individuals and families who are neither subject to the Proposed Rule nor related to individuals who are subject to the Proposed Rule. The Proposed Rule also changes U.S. immigration policy by making it even more difficult to administer while damaging and disrupting public health and social services programs vital to low-income Californians. Twenty-seven percent of California’s population, approximately 10 million people, are foreign born. One in two children has at least one immigrant parent. In California, 74 percent of non-citizens live in households that also have citizens.<sup>4</sup> Nearly 12 percent of the state’s total population—about 4.7 million people—live with an undocumented family member, including about 2 million children younger than 18 years old.”*

**Michael Wilkening, Secretary, Health and Human Services Agency, California  
Jennifer Kent, Director, Department of Health Care Services, California**

*“Immigrants play a vital role in sustaining the economy, culture and civic life of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The public charge rule that the DHS has proposed will put all of these contributions at risk by creating powerful disincentives for immigrants to make sure of government programs that re intended to help all persons lawfully present in our country achieve economic self-sufficiency and well-being. Today, six Massachusetts State agencies have submitted comments detailing the significant harm DHS’s proposed rule would pose to more than 500,000 Massachusetts residents who are lawfully present immigrants... Individual immigrants and their families will be directly harmed by the proposed rule, but ultimately the negative effects will be felt by the State as a whole as our health care, housing, and social services systems become overburdened as a result of the rule’s second-order effects.”*

***Marylou Sudders, Secretary, Health and Human Services, Massachusetts***