January 11, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President-Elect of the United States
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear President-Elect Biden:

As organizations representing immigrant families, health care access, children, people with disabilities, nutrition, public health, housing, and economic opportunity, we appreciate your commitment to reversal of the Trump administration’s dangerous public charge regulations. These cruel rules are directly harming immigrants and their families and undermining our country’s pandemic response. We urge you to begin work immediately after your inauguration, by issuing an Executive Order that includes directing agencies to rescind the public charge regulations and committing the White House to swift, bold and comprehensive policy and outreach strategies aimed at ensuring immigrants and their families feel safe in accessing public benefits and services.

The Department of Homeland Security implemented Trump's public charge policy on February 24, 2020. Since then, research has shown that the Trump public charge regulation has effectively denied millions in immigrant families the help they need, contributing to rising hunger, poverty, and unmet health care needs, even before the COVID-19 pandemic began. The Department of State adopted a similar policy that led to skyrocketing denials of immigrant visas and deepened the policy’s dangerous “chilling effect.” An immediate commitment to reverse these reckless policies would send a critical message to immigrant families that the federal government is not a threat.

Urgent action isn’t just about symbolism — in fact, it’s a matter of life and death. The pandemic has taken the heaviest toll on those already bearing the burdens of health disparity and economic marginalization resulting from centuries of institutional racism. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the COVID-19 case rate, hospitalization rate, and death rate are all significantly higher for persons of color. And as both clinicians and researchers have documented, immigrants and their families face additional obstacles, including policies like public charge that discourage needed testing and care.

The Trump public charge policy also poses a significant threat to effective COVID-19 vaccine distribution. To the degree that immigrant families consider vaccination a potential threat to immigration status, vaccination efforts will suffer, prolonging the health crisis and delaying economic recovery.

That is why you must act with urgency. Immigrants must hear from the highest office in the land that they are again welcome and valued members of our society. A reference in your inaugural address or some other public statement during your first few days in office would provide critical
assurances. Those assurances would have even more effect backed by the launch of a robust public engagement campaign by federal agencies, offering clear and transparent information about the limitations of the Trump public charge policy as it concerns public programs. In addition, work to repeal and replace the public charge rules should begin immediately—during the transition, given the urgent need for change and the time-consuming nature of regulatory development. We know that it may take time to formally roll back the public charge regulation but taking these first steps, while work advances, can do much to begin thawing the policy’s chilling effect and rebuilding trust.

We know you understand the danger posed by this policy and, again, appreciate your leadership in committing to its reversal. But the need is urgent, and time is not on our side. You must act quickly to set in motion the needed steps.

Thank you for your consideration and your leadership in building a nation where all families can thrive.

Sincerely,

ABC for Health, Inc.
ABLE NH (Advocates Building Lasting Equality in NH)
About Fresh
ACCESS
Access Alaska, Inc.
ACLU of West Virginia
ACLU People Power Fairfax
African Services Committee, Inc.
AHRI Center
Alabama Arise
Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Alameda County Community Food Bank
Aldea - The People's Justice Center
Alianza Nacional de Campesinas
Alliance of People with DisAbilities
Aloha Immigration
AltaMed Health Services
Amani Community Services
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)
American Friends Service Committee
American Gateways
Americans for Immigrant Justice
Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition
Arab-American Family Support Center
Arizona ADAPT
Arizona Center for Disability Law
Arizona Food Bank Network
Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance
Arkansas Immigrant Defense
Ascentria Care Alliance
Asian American Health Coalition dba HOPE Clinic
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles
Asian Americans for Community Involvement
Asian Health Services
Asian Law Alliance
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO
Asian Pacific Environmental Network
Asian Pacific Fund
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence
Asian Resources, Inc
Asian Services In Action (ASIA)
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence
Association for Special Children and Families
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
Association to Benefit Children
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Badass Teachers Association
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Benefits Data Trust
Beyond Visions, Inc.
Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL)
Boston Children's Hospital
Boston Medical Center
Boston Senior Home Care
Bread for the World
Building Audacity
Building One Community
C.A.R.E.
Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC
California Association of Food Banks
California Central Valley Journey for Justice
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
California Primary Care Association (CPCA)
Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee
Cambridge Health Alliance
Care For the Homeless
Casa Myrna Vazquez, Inc.
Casa San Jose
Catalyst of San Diego & Imperial Counties
CathARTic Breakthroughs
Catholic Charities of Idaho
CBR YouthConnect
Center for Employment Training
Center for Health Progress
Center for Independence
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for Pan Asian Community Services
Center for Public Representation
Central West Justice Center
Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy
Charlton Chip In Food Pantry
Children's Alliance
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Defense Fund - Texas
Children's HealthWatch
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Children's Institute
Children's Wisconsin
Children's Hospital Los Angeles
Children's Emergency Medical Fund of New Jersey
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Chinese Progressive Association
Church World Service
CIANA Inc.
Citizen Action of Wisconsin
City Harvest
Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center
Clinica Colorado
Coalition for Immigrant Health
Coalition on Homelessness
Coalition on Human Needs
Code for America
Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care
Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Colorado Latino Leadership Advocacy and Research Organization
Common Good Iowa
CommunicationFIRST
Community Action Agency of Somerville
Community Catalyst
Community Clinic Association of LA County
Community Clinic Consortium
Community Council of Idaho
Community Enabler Developer, Inc.
Community Food Advocates
Community Health Care Association of New York State
Community Health Councils
Community Health Initiative of Orange County, Director of Programs & Policy
Community Health Network of Washington
Community Health Partnership of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties
Community Health Plan of Washington
Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
Community Medical Centers
Compass Family Services
Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals
Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants
Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center
Connecticut Shoreline Indivisible
Connecticut Voices for Children
Cook County Health
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Covenant House
Crisis Intervention Service
CRLA Foundation
CSA San Diego County
D.C. Hunger Solutions
Daily Bread Food Pantry
DC Primary Care Association
Decency & Clarity
Desert Progressives Indivisible
Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation
Direct Advocacy & Resource Center
Disability Law Center of Alaska
Disability Law Colorado
Disability Resource Center
Disability Rights Advocates
Disability Rights California
Disability Rights Center of the VI
Disability Rights Connecticut
Disability Rights Florida
Disability Rights Michigan
Disability Rights Nebraska
Disability Rights New Jersey
Disability Rights North Carolina
Disability Rights Oregon
Disability Rights Pennsylvania
Disability Rights South Carolina
Disability Rights Tennessee
Disability Rights Vermont
Disability Rights Washington
Doctors for America Immigrant Health Justice Working Group
Dolores Street Community Services
Domestic Violence Intervention Program
Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids
DOVE (DOMestic Violence Ended), Inc.
Dream Action Oklahoma
East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation
East Bay Community Foundation
East Bay Community Law Center
East Bay Sanctuary Covenant
East Boston Neighborhood Health Center
East Colfax Community Collective
East Harlem Community Health Committee, Inc.
East Harlem Health Outreach Partnership
El Centro, Inc.
Emerald Isle Immigration Center
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)
Enlace Chicago
Epilepsy Foundation
Equality California
Equality North Carolina
Espacio Migrante
EverThrive Illinois
Eviction Defense Collaborative
Faith in the Valley
Family Crisis Services, Inc.
Family Resources
Family Voices
Family Voices NJ
Family Voices of California
Farmworker Justice
Federation for Children with Special Needs
Feeding America
Feeding Texas
First 5 LA
First Focus on Children
Florida Health Justice Project
Food Bank of Northern Nevada
Food Research & Action Center
Fools Mission
Freedom Network USA
Futures Without Violence
Gender Justice LA
Georgia Advocacy Office
GLIDE
Golden Valley Health Centers
Granite State Interfaith Action Fund
Granite State Organizing Project
Granite State Progress Education Fund
Greater Boston Legal Services
Greater Chicago Food Depository
Greater Hartford Legal Aid
Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger
Guttmacher Institute
HANA Center
Hathaway -Sycamores
Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center
Health Care For All
Health Law Advocates
Heartland Alliance
Hep B United
Hep Free Hawaii
Hepatitis B Foundation
HIAS Pennsylvania
Hispanic Outreach Ministry
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Home Forward
Housing Action Illinois
Human Impact Partners
Human Rights Initiative of North Texas
Human Services Consortium of East Harlem
Hunger Free Colorado
Hunger Free Oklahoma
Hunger Solutions New York
Hunger-Free Oregon
Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence
Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force Inc.
Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger
Idaho Voices for Children
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)
Illinois Hunger Coalition
Illuminate Colorado
Immigrant Hope - Wyoming Idaho
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project
Independence Northwest, Inc.
Indivisible Western Springs
Innovation Law Lab
Interfaith Food Pantry Network
International Community Health Services
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Iowa Coalition For Collective Change
Jesuit Social Research Institute/Loyola University New Orleans
Jewish Family & Children’s Service of Greater Boston
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Just Harvest
Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts
Justice in Aging
Justice Resource Institute, Inc.
Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
Kent Street Coalition
Kentucky Equal Justice Center
Khmer Girls in Action
Kids Forward
La Casa de Amistad, Inc.
La Clinica de La Raza, Inc.
Lanai Community Health Center
Larkin Street Youth Services
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Latino Community Center
Latino Policy Forum
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
Legal Aid Justice Center
Legal Aid of Marin
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
Lifelongmedicalcare
Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry
Logan Square Neighborhood Association
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
Louisiana Budget Project
Maine Business Immigration Coalition
Maine Community Integration
Maine Parent Federation
Massachusetts Councils on Aging
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Massachusetts Public Health Association
Massachusetts Senior Action Council
Maternal and Child Health Access
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
MetroWest Legal Services
Michigan Family Voices
Michigan Immigrant Rights Center
Michigan League for Public Policy
Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid - Minnesota Disability Law Center
Migrant Clinicians Network
Mississippi Center for Justice
Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project
Montana Budget and Policy Center
Montana Women Vote
Montgomery County Food Council
Mountain State Justice
Muslim Public Affairs Council
NAKASEC Virginia
NASTAD
National Alliance for Safe Housing
National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy and Community Empowerment (National PLACE)
National Coalition for Latinxs with Disabilities (CNLD)
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA)
National Health Law Program
National Homelessness Law Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Network for Arab American Communities
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Respite Coalition
National Skills Coalition
NC Child
NC Farmworker Advocacy Network
NCAAT in Action
Nebraska Appleseed
Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center
Nevada Primary Care Association
Never Again Coalition
New Hampshire Legal Assistance
New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center
New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)
New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Nicaragua Center for Community Action
NICOS Chinese Health Coalition
North Carolina Asian Americans Together
North Carolina Justice Center
North Dakota KIDS COUNT
North East Medical Services (NEMS)
North Marin Community Services
Northeast Valley Health Corporation
Northern Illinois Food Bank
Northwest Harvest
Northwest Health Law Advocates
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
Northwest Regional Primary Care Association
Nourish California
Oasis Legal Services
OCA — Asian Pacific American Advocates
OCA Asian Pacific Advocates - Greater Seattle
OCA Greater Chicago
Ohio Domestic Violence Network
Oklahoma Policy Institute
OLA of Eastern Long Island
Old Mill Center for Children and Families, Inc.
One Nation Commission Co Chairs Sherry Hirota and Mike Honda
Operation Access
Orange County United Way
Our Children Oregon
Our Future West Virginia
Pacific Gateway Center
PAVE
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition
People's Community Clinic
Philanthropy California
Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Carlsbad CA
Placer Independent Resource Services
Positive Women's Network-USA
Prairielands Freedom Fund
PRC (Positive Resource Center)
Preble Street
Presentation Sisters Justice Commission
Prevention Institute
Project Bread
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator
Public Health Justice Collective
Public Justice Center
Redwood Community Health Coalition
Restore Hope Ministries
RESULTS
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
Rights & Democracy NH
Rosie's Place
San Diegans for Healthcare Coverage
San Diego Hunger Coalition
San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium
San Francisco-Marin Food Bank
Saratoga Immigration Coalition
SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center
Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness
Second Harvest Food Bank Orange County
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley
Services, Immigrant Rights & Education Network (SIREN)
Share Our Strength
Sheng-Yen Lu Foundation (SYL Foundation)
Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Silver State Equality-Nevada
Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants (SBI)
Soft Landing Missoula
South Asian Network (SAN)
South Central Family Health Center
South Dakota KIDS COUNT
South Dakota Voices for Justice
South Dakota Voices for Peace
Southeast Kansas Independent Living
Southern Poverty Law Center
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)
Spanish American Center, Inc.
Still Waters Anti-trafficking Program
Tennessee Justice Center
Texas Council on Family Violence
The AIDS Institute
The Arc of the United States
The Children's Partnership
The Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy and Innovation
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
The Food Project, Inc.
The Greater Boston Food Bank
The Legal Aid Society (New York)
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
The Open Door
The Parents' Place of MD
The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies
The Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois
The Workers Circle
Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center
TN Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition
TODEC Legal Center
Treatment Action Group
UCLA School of Law, Immigrant Family Legal Clinic
UndocuHealth Advocates
UnidosUS
Union for Reform Judaism
United Cerebral Palsy
United Parent Leaders Action Network (UPLAN)
United Way of New York City
Universidad Popular
University YMCA New American Welcome Center
URI Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America
Venice Family Clinic
Vermont Family Network
Vermont Foodbank
Veterans For Peace Linus Pauling Chapter
Violence Free Colorado
Virgin Islands Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.
Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations
Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
Visión y Compromiso
Voces
Volunteers of Legal Service
Waimanalo Health Center
Wallingford Indivisible
Washington Association for Community Health
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights
Waypoint Services
WeCount!
Welcome Project, Inc.
West Central Initiative
West Marin Community Services
West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy
West Virginia Council of Churches
West Virginia Interfaith Refugee Ministry
West Virginia University Center for Resilient Communities
West Virginia University Immigration Law Clinic
West Virginians for Affordable Health Care
Western Center on Law & Poverty
Westside Family Healthcare
William E. Morris Institute for Justice (Arizona)
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
Woburn Public Schools
Women for Afghan Women
Worcester County Food Bank, Inc.
WV FREE
Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic
Yonkers Sanctuary Movement
YPN (Young Parents Network)
ZERO TO THREE