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## **ADVOCATES APPLAUD JUSTICE DEPT. DECISION TO DROP TRUMP PUBLIC CHARGE DEFENSE**

**WASHINGTON** — The United States Department of Justice today filed a motion asking the United States Supreme Court to dismiss its defense of Trump public charge regulations that have effectively denied millions in immigrant families health care and economic support during the COVID-19 pandemic. Preliminary orders issued by federal trial courts in several judicial circuits struck those regulations down, but the Trump administration had appealed. While the regulations will remain in force until the Supreme Court acts, that action is expected to effectively nullify the Trump policy.

The announcement came just weeks after 500 nonprofit organizations affiliated with the [Protecting Immigrant Families](#) coalition [sent a letter](#) urging president Biden to act quickly. Biden has also directed the relevant agencies, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. State Department, to reconsider the regulations. Those regulatory efforts will continue. Responding to the Justice Department filing, advocates issued the following statements:

“The Trump public charge policy was about sending the message that if you’re not white and you’re not wealthy, you’re not welcome in America. Today’s filing sends a very different message to millions of immigrant families: it’s safe to get the health care and help you need. We applaud the administration for taking action, understanding that we have much more work to do,” said Eddie Carmona, campaigns director with the Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition.

“Today’s actions by the Biden administration pave the way for ending Trump’s dangerous and racist public charge wealth test. For the last four years, the National Immigration Law Center and diverse allies across the nation in the [Protecting Immigrant Families](#) coalition have fought back against this cruel policy that threatened the health, nutrition, and housing of millions of families. It is dangerous to the health and well-being of our nation, and has impeded our ability to fully recover from the pandemic,” said Marielena Hincapié, executive director of the National Immigration Law Center.

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