



December 4, 2018

The Honorable Justin Amash
U.S. House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Amash:

I am writing to you on behalf of the leaders of the Protecting Immigrant Families *Michigan* campaign, which is led by: Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, Michigan League for Public Policy, and Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services.

We want to draw your attention to an important and timely issue that will impact thousands of immigrant families in Michigan. U.S. Representative Judy Chu (CA-27) introduced H.R. 7052, a bill to prevent any federal funds from being used to implement the Administration's proposed "public charge" rule. The proposed rule seeks to close the door to a green card to all but the wealthiest of immigrants, and would most harshly penalize children, the elderly, women and low-wage workers. We ask that you join Rep. Chu and your colleagues in the House as a cosponsor to this bill and help protect immigrant families in Michigan.

For many years the "public charge" test has been used to identify people who may depend on government benefits as their main source of financial support. If the government determines that someone is likely to become a "public charge," that person can be refused permission to enter the U.S. and refused a green card. Under the current policy, the only government benefits taken into account when determining who is likely to become a "public charge" are cash assistance programs (including Supplemental Security Income and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and government-funded, long-term institutional care.

The proposed rule, announced by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on September 22, 2018, greatly expands the list of programs and factors that could be considered when an immigrant is applying for a green card and is subjected to the "public charge" test. The change would likely lead to a large number of families declining necessary services they are eligible for out of fear of jeopardizing their immigration status. But risking access to healthcare, adequate food and nutrition, and safe, affordable housing for thousands of Michigan children will negatively impact their health and economic outcomes. Estimates show that the impact of this proposed rule could extend to approximately 283,000 Michiganders, 114,000 of whom are children.

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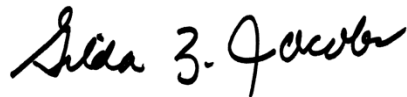
Our campaign is focused on stopping this dangerous policy by educating community members and stakeholders about the proposed “public charge” rule, and preparing them to submit a public comment opposing the changes during the government’s notice and comment period for this rule. We ask that you join us in protecting Michigan families by cosponsoring H.R. 7052 to block any funding for this harmful proposed regulation.

Thank you for your consideration, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,



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