

Statement from NYLPI on the Trump Administration’s Proposed New “Public Charge” Immigration Rule

The Trump Administration’s proposed new immigration rule would force our clients and communities to choose between the people they love and the food, housing, and healthcare they need. Under the proposed “public charge” rule, having a disability or using government programs can be counted against immigrants seeking lawful admission to the U.S. or applying for a “green card.” This new rule threatens immigrant families, discriminates against immigrants with disabilities, and turns basic support into weapons against communities of color. We’re fighting to stop it, and we need your help.

From receiving prescriptions through Medicare, basic healthcare that keeps people with chronic conditions healthy through Medicaid, nutrition assistance through SNAP, or housing through rent vouchers, these public programs close the gap for families all over New York. But now, every meal or doctor’s visit could put a loved one’s immigration status at risk. Although the “public charge” rule does not impact every person applying for the chance to remain in the U.S., it will directly hurt many of our clients and the communities with whom we partner. This change impacts the entire healthcare and supportive system that helps all of us live healthy lives.

For over a hundred years, the government has recognized that access to health care and nutrition helps families thrive and participate in society. And decades ago, the government clarified that immigrant families can seek health and nutrition benefits without fearing that doing so will harm their immigration case. If this rule is finalized, we can no longer offer that assurance.

NYLPI stands with our clients and communities, and members of the Protecting Immigrant Families coalition, and opposes this change.

Federal law gives the public the right to comment on proposed regulations. For more information on the proposed change and resources (including draft comments), please visit www.protectingimmigrantfamilies.org.

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About New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI)

Founded more than 40 years ago by leaders of the bar, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest pursues equality and justice for New Yorkers. NYLPI works toward a New York where all people can thrive in their communities, with quality healthcare and housing, safe jobs, good schools, and healthy neighborhoods. In our vision, all New Yorkers live with dignity and independence, with the access and resources they need to succeed. NYLPI’s community-driven approach powers its commitments to civil rights and to disability, health, immigrant, and environmental justice. NYLPI seeks lasting change through litigation, community organizing, policy advocacy, pro bono service, and education.