



Dear Friends,

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has proposed new regulations that would dramatically change the rules for how noncitizens become legal permanent residents or enter the U.S. as immigrants. These new rules would target the poor, the elderly, the less educated, those with disabilities or mental illness, and non-English speakers – changing the rules for millions of individuals who are following the legal process. **And, it will result in more families being separated.**

These rules would mean that a mom or dad who entered the United States legally could be denied permanent legal status, lose their immigration status, and be placed into removal proceedings – by *applying* for temporary assistance such as supplemental nutrition benefits (SNAP) or *losing* health insurance coverage if the officer making the decision *believes* the family member could become a public charge. The proposed policies would look not just at past or current use of public benefits and other factors, but subjectively evaluate possible future factors.

"This proposed policy change is yet another way that this administration is working to remake the US immigration system and reduce the number of foreign-born residents in the United States. And, they are now targeting legal permanent residents", said Mary Studzinski, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center (PIRC). "The greatest impact will be felt by families, families who will be separated from loved ones denied entry to the United States or denied permanent legal status."

Our resolve remains strong. We stand with immigrant families. And, we encourage you to make your voice heard.

In alliance and peace,

Mary Studzinski

P.S. Check back at PIRC's website for a link on how to share your comments directly once the proposed regulations are published in the Federal Register.

Details of the proposed rules:

The government would determine whether a person applying to become a legal permanent resident would become a public charge by considering a totality of factors:

- Household income – household **income** in or near poverty will be considered a negative;
- Prior, current or prospective use of **public benefits** including SNAP is a negative factor;
- Credit history – a poor **credit history** is a negative;
- Medical history/status and **health** insurance coverage – lack of insurance, use of Medicaid, poor health history is a negative;
- Level of education – high school **education** is a negative; and
- English proficiency – limited **English ability** is a negative.

The government would **weigh most heavily** the following negative factors:

- Lack of Employability (age, education, English proficiency)
- Current Receipt of One or More Public Benefits
- Receipt of Public Benefits within 36 Months of Filing Application
- Financial Means to Pay for Medical Costs (private health insurance, financial resources, disability/illness)

