



PUBLIC CHARGE RULE CHANGE IS A BLACK ISSUE AND WE MUST FIGHT BACK

O V E R V I E W

Under a proposed public charge regulation change the Trump administration published on October 10, 2018, immigration officials would consider whether individuals had received or simply sought certain needs-based public services. Benefits that could be considered in a public charge determination would include but are not limited to, non-emergency assistance like Medicaid, SNAP (The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly, known as "Food Stamps"), and Section 8 housing vouchers.

The regulation also **favors immigrants who speak the English language and who have earnings at or above 250 percent of the federal poverty level**, which is a whopping \$63,000 for a family of four. If you don't have these favored factors, you are considered more likely to become a public charge and therefore more likely to be barred from being allowed to get a green card or enter the U.S. on these grounds.

This policy is in alignment with the Trump administration's reckless use of the law to divide and conquer Americans. This policy legally codifies class and racial discrimination and is a continuation of policies that are attacking Social Security, the public school system, and accessibility to healthcare, while lining the pockets of the already wealthy.

The Trump administration's proposed public charge ruling is a white supremacist agenda whose primary goals are to oppress people of color and to whiten America. The public charge ruling is a part of an ongoing strategy by conservatives to destroy safety net programs and criminalize individuals in need. **What the administration has reportedly expressed a desire for behind closed doors and seeks to implement by way of this change, is to only make white, wealthy, English-speaking immigrants welcome to the United States.** By bypassing a Congress, Trump is once again finding ways to avoid checks and balances in his objective to implement racist policies.

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KEY POINTS

Attacks that paint people of color as undeserving when they receive the kinds of help that many low- and moderate-income white families receive is a tactic that Black families understand all too well. Punishing immigrants and their U.S. citizen family members for relying on healthcare and nutrition programs builds upon the shameful but effective practice of stigmatizing public programs and the people who participate in them.

This proposal continues the white supremacist agenda of family separation of indigenous, Black and other people of color. Most recently, family separation at the border: a centuries-old racist justice system that separates incarcerated family members from their loved ones; and an immigration system that attempts to lock out immigrants of color and detain and separate them from their families in the US.

The Trump Administration wants to make immigrants afraid to participate in programs that **improve the quality of life of Americans** like SNAP, non-emergency Medicaid, and housing assistance.

There exists common sense, compassionate legislation such as the Jobs and Justice Act of 2018 (H.R. 5785) which justly calls for the raising of the minimum wage to \$15 to improve the quality of life for the working class. **While the cost of living around the country increases, access to food and nutrition and affordable housing and healthcare, continue to be inaccessible to low-income communities.**

Health, nutrition, and housing supports are the assistance that working class communities need to improve the quality of life for generations. **Anyone interested in challenging the war on poor people must fight for programs that support Black immigrants' ability to access a better standard of living.**

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