

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

December 2, 2025

Opposing The Proposed Public Charge Rule

On November 19, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services posted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) proposing to rescind the 2022 Biden Administration Public Charge rule. The NPRM proposes to rescind nearly the entirety of the 2022 rule and allow immigration officers to deny permanent residency to immigrants, including those with legal status, who use Medicaid or other food and housing assistance programs delivered by federal and state government.

The 2022 regulations were implemented to address the chilling effects of Trump’s 2019 rule which led many immigrant families, including citizen children, to forgo health care and coverage. A 2021 study from the University of California Los Angeles¹ found that the 2019 public charge rule deterred many immigrants from using health services. Those deterred included lawful permanent residents who were not subject to the rule. Another study² determined that the rule exacerbated racial disparities in illness and deaths during the Covid-19 pandemic because immigrants were afraid to get tested and

¹ <https://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/our-work/publications/one-4-low-income-immigrant-adults-california-avoided-public-benefit-programs-likely-worsening-food>
² [How the Trump Administration's Pandemic Health Care Response Failed Racial Health Equity: Case Studies of Structural Racism and a Call for Equity Mindfulness in Federal Health Policy Making | Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law | Duke University Press](#)

MOTION

Mitchell	_____
Horvath	_____
Hahn	_____
Barger	_____
Solis	_____

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treated for the virus.

The proposed changes to the public charge rule will create widespread confusion and fear among our immigrant communities and mixed-status households who are likely to avoid taking their sick children to a doctor or receiving other vital benefits, such as food benefits known as CalFresh in California, for even their children who are United States citizens. It will also impact our hospitals as more immigrants forgo preventive care and end up in the emergency room. The new rule could also make it harder to manage infectious diseases because immigrants will fear that if they get tested or see a doctor they will fall victim to the public charge rule.

The Department of Homeland Security will accept public comment on the proposal to rescind the Biden rule for 30 days, through December 19, 2025, and will review the comments before issuing a final decision. Los Angeles County must take action to respond to the rule change and ensure that we are able to deliver vital public services to every one of our residents, regardless of immigration status.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (LAIR) branch, in consultation with County Counsel, to send a five-signature letter to the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation to declare the Board's opposition to the proposed change of the public charge rule and to express the significant harm that it would cause to Los Angeles County and its residents.

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2. Direct the Office of Immigrant Affairs in coordination with the Departments of Public Social Services, Public Health, Mental Health, Health Services, Homeless Services and Housing, and Children and Family Services, the Los Angeles County Development Authority, and in consultation with County Counsel, to draft a comprehensive County response opposing the proposed rule change, to be submitted during the public comment period.
3. Direct the Office of Immigrant Affairs to collaborate with the Departments of Public Social Services, Public Health, Mental Health, Health Services, Homeless Services and Housing, and Children and Family Services, the Los Angeles County Development Authority, community-based organizations, and other relevant stakeholders on public education and outreach to educate immigrant communities about the rule, when it is final, and to direct individuals to resources such as immigration advocates and legal clinics which could advise immigrants about the potential impacts of the proposed rule on their individual situations.
4. Direct the Office of Immigrant Affairs in consultation with County Counsel and impacted County Departments to design and execute a comprehensive internal communications strategy to ensure County employees understand the changes to the rule. The internal strategy should be unique to each department and consist of line-staff training to achieve department-wide messaging consistency.
5. Instruct County Counsel to monitor any legal action aimed at challenging the proposed rule from taking effect and file and/or join in as amicus or as plaintiff in

AGN. NO. _____

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litigation, as deemed appropriate by County Counsel.

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