



OFFICE OF THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT  
THE BRONX COUNTY BUILDING  
851 GRAND CONCOURSE  
BRONX, NEW YORK 10451

TEL. 718-590-3500  
FAX. 718-590-3537  
E-MAIL: rdiazjr@bronxbp.nyc.gov

RUBEN DIAZ JR.  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

November 16, 2018

Secretary Kirstjen M. Nielsen  
The United States Department of Homeland Security  
By Regulations.gov Internet-Portal Comment

Dear Secretary Nielsen:

I write to convey my strong opposition to the Trump Administration's proposed "Public Charge" inadmissibility rule.

Your administration is seeking in these proposed changes to put an onerous and undue burden on immigrants in order for them and their families to achieve legal status or citizenship. These proposed changes would keep vulnerable people in the shadows, off a group of disqualifying benefits that would now expand to include Medicaid, Medicare Part D and SNAP food assistance, in order to ensure their own status or that of their relatives. This is not to mention that the proposal from Department of Homeland Security notes it is considering adding the Childrens' Health Insurance Program as a disqualifier.

This is not our America. Our America is not one where only those without a history of receiving any government assistance and their families are welcomed.

As Borough President of The Bronx, a borough that has welcomed immigrants to The United States for multiple generations from the Jews of Eastern Europe, to West Africans, to Latinos from many nations, just to name a few; we cannot stand idly by in the face of this proposed rule and remain silent. New York State is estimated to be 23 percent foreign born, and immigrants are part of the fabric of our communities. The Bronx is estimated to be 40 percent foreign born.

We are a nation of immigrants, and we must ask ourselves what the future of our great Nation will be if we allow xenophobia to infect every aspect of our lives.

This bill opens our nation up to a variety of public health risks, such as malnutrition, lack of vaccination, increased use of less-than-preferable emergency room care and uncompensated medical care, and

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increased rates of poverty and instability when those impacted do not seek the resources legally available to them for fear of retribution.

Further, there is an expected economic impact of the rule. A report by the bipartisan group New American Economy has found that the total annual income of workers who would be affected by the public charge rule is more than \$96.4 billion. There are a striking number of working United States residents contributing to our economies with their labor who nevertheless cannot make it in places like New York City without sometimes getting a hand up. We need the fruits of these workers' diligent labor as well as their contributions to our diverse communities.

I hope that you keep the aforementioned issues at the forefront of your mind as you consider the deleterious impact of this proposed rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruben Diaz Jr." with a period at the end. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ruben Diaz Jr.