

Dear ACP members,

On October 10th, the current administration put out a proposal which would dramatically change public charge policies. Currently as new immigrants arrive in the US and apply for permanent residency, a rule exists stating that those who are primarily dependent on the federal government for public cash assistance as income or long-term institutionalization can be denied permanent resident status. However, this new proposal would now include use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), housing assistance, Medicaid and Medicare Part D low income subsidies as criteria for residency denial.

The Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) has noted that 95% of non-citizens who have come to the US legally, have at least one characteristic which would weigh against them in a public charge determination including 59% who do not have private health coverage. KFF also notes that the rule could lead to a disenrollment in Medicaid at rates of 15-35% (or 2.1 to 4.9 million people). Ultimately this can lead to worse health outcomes for the overall population and increased uncompensated care for hospitals.

The ACP has put out a [joint statement with the AAP, AAFP, ACOG and APA](#) expressing concern about the effects of this bill and urging the Administration to reconsider this proposal. The deadline to submit comments is **December 10th, 2018**, making this a time sensitive issue.

For additional information, **please join us at the ACP November 17th meeting at 12PM** where a table will be set up to answer questions and discuss this further. For the program brochure and registration link, click [HERE](#).

If you are unable to make it to the meeting, or have additional concerns, here are some useful links:

- <https://www.manatt.com/Insights/Articles/2018/Public-Charge-Rule-Potentially-Chilled-Population#DataDashboard>
- <https://www.kff.org/disparities-policy/issue-brief/estimated-impacts-of-the-proposed-public-charge-rule-on-immigrants-and-medicaid/>

To submit an individual comment by **December 10, 2018** please click on this link.  
[https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=DHS\\_FRDOC\\_0001-1706](https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=DHS_FRDOC_0001-1706)

With more individual comments submitted, it is our hope that pressure will be put on lawmakers to reconsider this proposal.

Sincerely,

Elisa I. Choi, MD, FACP, Governor

Zoe Tseng, MD, FACP & Aisha James, MD, Co-Chairs, MA Health and Public Policy

The Immigrant and Refugee Health Subcommittee of the MA ACP Health and Public Policy Committee