



Asian & Latino Solidarity Alliance

*Advancing common objectives impacting the
Asian and Latino communities in Central Virginia*

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<http://alsacv.org/>

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December 10, 2018

Submitted via www.regulations.gov

Samantha Deshommes, Chief
Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy and Strategy
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security
20 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20529-2140

Re: Comments in Response to Proposed Rulemaking: Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Docket No. USCIS-2010-0012, RIN 1615-AA22

The Asian & Latino Solidarity Alliance (ALSA) works to advance common objectives impacting the Asian and Latino communities in Central Virginia. We write to strongly oppose the DHS' proposed changes to "public charge" and urge DHS to withdraw the proposal immediately and in its entirety.

Denying permanent residency status to immigrants who temporarily use public services and assistance is punitive and wrong. Raising barriers to immigration for children, seniors, those with less education or income, or those who speak languages other than English, betrays our values of diversity and fair opportunity. Even more egregious is that this proposal will create a second tier of residents living in the U.S. – a near permanent set of individuals who will never be able to adjust their status.

Immigrant families are vital members of our communities. They pay billions of dollars in taxes, work hard, and share the American dream of building better lives for themselves, their families, and our nation. This proposal would have a significant impact on community members who are applying to be lawful permanent residents; non-immigrant visa holders who wish to remain in the U.S. or change to a different visa; legal permanent residents who are out of the country for more than six months and are seeking to return to the U.S.; or foreign nationals who are seeking entry or reentry into the U.S.

As with the 1990s immigration and welfare reform, the proposed regulation will discourage millions of immigrants from seeking the basic healthcare, nutritional, housing, and social service programs that support their needs and their tax dollars help support. This "chilling effect" will also impact U.S. citizen children as one or both noncitizen parents may disenroll them from services for fear of future immigration consequences. All of this will ripple throughout our local communities and further perpetuate a cycle of poverty and strain on services for all residents.

We want immigrants to be able to support themselves and their families and our communities and our nation to thrive. As the governing board of ALSA and advocates for our communities, we strongly urge you to withdraw this proposed regulation.