

Public Charge Talking Points Updated 11/20/2025

Messages in bold, talking points bulleted below the messages

This proposal is about chaos and bias

- Without the Biden regulation's guardrails, DHS can base public charge denials on any health or social services program the administration wants
- Or on any personal traits like obesity or disability the administration dislikes
- And, going beyond the 2019 Trump policy, it contemplates considering family members' health or social services use or family medical history
- It's a wealth test aimed at making lawful immigration available only to the rich

It's part of the broader assault on lawfully present immigrants, US citizens in immigrant families, and the communities that welcome them

- OBBBA already makes even fewer lawfully present immigrants eligible for benefits
- So most of the projected reduction in safety net program usage will likely come from US citizens – mostly children – in immigrant families
- Like the 2019 Trump public charge policy, it uses chaos and threats to deter millions in immigrant families from using government services for which they qualify under federal law
- And like the 2019 Trump policy, it threatens the nation's health and economic security
- But in the context of the administration's reckless and lawless enforcement assault, the "chilling effect" could be even deeper

It's also part of the administration's campaign to close doors to lawful immigration

- Like \$100,000 visa fees and \$1M gold cards, or adding \$550 fees for work authorization and a 90% increase in TPS application fees
- And like using "neighborhood checks" to harass naturalization applicants and their neighbors
- And like a civics test that's more about MAGA ideology than US history

Congress must act to protect the nation from this known threat, and state policymakers must raise their voices and demand action from their congressional delegations