



August 23, 2019

Dear Member of Congress,

As organizations advocating for the well-being of children and families in North Carolina, we are deeply disturbed by the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) “public charge” rule scheduled to go into effect on October 15, 2019. If enacted, this rule will negatively affect thousands of North Carolina’s immigrant families, and jeopardize the health and safety of their children, many of whom are U.S. citizens. We urge you to join Rep. David Price (NC-4) in supporting HR 3222 which would protect North Carolina children by denying federal funds needed to implement the rule.

If enacted, the public charge rule will harm thousands of North Carolina children as fear and confusion about this complex rule may discourage many immigrant families from enrolling or keeping their children enrolled in critical programs such as Medicaid and CHIP. North Carolina has made tremendous strides in assuring children’s health by increasing the number of children who have health coverage, specifically the number of children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. A large and growing body of research shows that Medicaid coverage in childhood results in healthy development, and that better pediatric health leads to longer, healthier lives; a greater likelihood of finishing high school or attending college, and a more prosperous future. Nevertheless, under the public charge rule immigrant families may be less likely to bring their children to the doctor for immunizations, preventative well-checks, or critical treatment for life-threatening illnesses such as asthma.

In addition, key benefits that immigrant families may rely on for a short period of time – such as SNAP, housing assistance, SSI and TANF – are critical programs for their children and contribute to their ability to remain healthy and in school. We believe the public charge rule will create a chilling effect for immigrant families who may be fearful of using these programs, thus resulting in children who are not receiving the nutrition, stable housing and other resources they need to be healthy and safe.

Congress can protect children in immigrant families from this harmful rule but it will take your leadership and your voice. We urge you to support HR 3222 and to publicly speak out against the “public charge” rule.

Respectfully Signed,

ABC Pediatrics, *Asheville*
Ada Jenkins Center, *Davidson*
Carolina Jews for Justice, *Durham*
Child Care Services Association,
Chapel Hill
Children First/Communities In Schools
of Buncombe County, *Asheville*
Eblen Short Stop Stores, *Asheville*
Exceptional Children's Assistance
Center, *Apex*
El Futuro, *Durham*
El Pueblo, *Raleigh*
Equality North Carolina, *Raleigh*
Florence Crittenton Services, *Charlotte*
Goldsboro Pediatrics, PA, *Goldsboro*
Green River Woods, Inc., *Asheville*
Haven House Services, *Raleigh*
LatinxED, *Chapel Hill*
MomsRising, *Durham*
Mountain View Pediatrics, PA, *Morganton*
NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina,
Durham
National Association of Social Workers
North Carolina, *Raleigh*

NC Association of Educators (NCAE),
Raleigh
NC Child, *Raleigh*
NC Justice Center, *Raleigh*
NC Pediatric Society, *Raleigh*
NC Stop Human Trafficking, *Farmville*
North Carolina Coalition Against
Domestic Violence, *Durham*
North Carolina Council of Child and
Adolescent Psychiatry, *Greenville*
North Carolina Council of Churches,
Raleigh
Outstanding Kids, *Greensboro*
Partners in Development, *Chapel Hill*
Pisgah Legal Services, *Asheville*
RESULTS Asheville, *Swannanoa*
Roanoke Chowan Community Health
Center, *Ahoskie*
Stokes Partnership for Children, *King*
The Health Foundation, Inc., *North*
Wilkesboro
Verner Center for Early Learning,
Black Mountain
WAGES, Inc., *Goldsboro*
Winer Family Foundation, *Charlotte*