PUT ON LETTERHEAD

DATE

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: DHS Docket No. USCIS-2010-0012, RIN 1615-AA22, Comments in Response to Proposed Rulemaking: Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds – **Request to Withdraw Proposed Rule**

Dear Ms. Deshommes,

On behalf of FOOD BANK, we write to offer comments on the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) [proposed rule on public charge](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/10/10/2018-21106/inadmissibility-on-public-charge-grounds). FOOD BANK is based in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with a mission to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. ONE TO TWO SENTENCES ON WHY YOU OPPOSE THE RULE SUCH AS HOW FOOD BANKS SERVE ON THE FRONT LINES OF HUNGER, THE NEED IN YOUR COMMUNITY ETC.

**We urge the administration to withdraw this harmful rule that will increase hunger and hardship** for low-income immigrant families (including their U.S. citizen children) nationwide and have a disproportionately high impact in California, where [50 percent of California children have at least one immigrant parent](https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/714/foreign-parents10/bar#fmt=1011&loc=2,1&tf=90&sort=loc)--this translates to roughly 4.5 million children in California alone.

[With nearly 40 million Americans still living in poverty](https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2018/demo/p60-263.pdf), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, CalFresh in California) is our nation’s most important anti-hunger program. [SNAP helps put food within reach and helps lift over 4 million Californians out of poverty](https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/snap_factsheet_california.pdf). Nationwide, [federal nutrition programs provide 19 out of 20 emergency meals](http://www.bread.org/sites/default/files/downloads/2014_churches_hunger_fact_sheet.pdf), yet because SNAP benefits are inadequate to last the entire month, [nearly 1 in 3 households still rely on food banks to make ends meet](https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/90029/ap-079.pdf?v=0) and food banks are already struggling to meet the current need.

The proposed rule marks a significant expansion of the list of programs to be considered for a public charge determination, including public benefits like SNAP, that help low-income families meet basic needs like food, healthcare and housing. Moreover, the rule builds upon the [chilling effect](https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/chilling-effects-expected-public-charge-rule-impact-legal-immigrant-families) that food banks and other emergency food providers have witnessed first-hand, with many families choosing to [dis-enroll or forego critical health and nutrition benefits](https://www.politico.com/story/2018/09/03/immigrants-nutrition-food-trump-crackdown-806292) for fear of losing their legal pathway to stay in this country or being separated from their families.

We strongly oppose the proposed rule on public change which would restrict access to SNAP and other critical nutrition assistance programs for our state’s low-income immigrant families and force families to choose between their basic needs and keeping their families together.

Sincerely,

NAME

TITLE

ORGANIZATION