

New York City Mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani:

“The new public charge rule seeks to push immigrant families away from the programs that have kept people fed and healthy for decades. New Yorkers will be afraid to see a doctor or ask for help they are legally entitled to. That fear will not stop at the families that the federal government is targeting. Families who remain fully eligible for benefits will feel a chilling effect and all New Yorkers will pay for it. New York City is proud to lead a coalition of cities and counties — Chicago, San Francisco, Santa Clara County, Seattle, and King County — standing firmly against this cruel and unlawful rule. Our immigrant communities are not a burden. They are the people who make New York City and the country great. We will use every tool at our disposal to ensure they can continue to live here with dignity and without fear.”

Toby Merrill, litigation director at Public Rights Project:

“Getting help when you need it is not the same as being dependent on the government. But this administration is trying to blur that line to make it harder for immigrant families to access basic services. That will hurt families and entire communities, while leaving local governments to deal with the public health and financial consequences. DHS cannot rewrite the law to push essential services out of reach.”

New York City Corporation Counsel Steve Banks:

“The federal government has again targeted our immigrant communities with an extremely harmful new federal public charge rule. This new rule sweeps away more than a century of settled law to unlawfully broaden the definition of ‘public charge’ in a way that Congress never intended. No immigrant New Yorker should have to choose between their immigration status and benefits for which they are legally eligible.”

MOIA Commissioner Faiza N. Ali:

“The federal government’s changes to the public charge rule are creating fear and confusion among immigrant communities, which may keep families from accessing public benefits and services that help keep them healthy and safe. No one should have to choose between their family’s wellbeing and their future in this country. As New York City and municipalities across the country challenge these changes in court, the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs will continue making sure immigrant New Yorkers know their rights, know where to turn to for help and can access trusted legal support.”

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson:

“Chicago will not stand by while the federal government forces immigrant families to choose

between putting food on the table, taking their children to the doctor or protecting their ability to remain in this country. This rule is not only cruel, it is unlawful, and it threatens the health and safety of our entire city. More than half a million Chicagoans were born outside the United States. They are our neighbors and an essential part of who we are. Chicago has fought these attacks before, and alongside New York and cities across the country, we will fight them again. We will use every tool available to protect our immigrant communities and defend their right to live with dignity and without fear.”

Seattle City Attorney Erika Evans:

“Seattle is joining this lawsuit to stand up for our values and the rule of law. Seattle is a place where people seeking opportunity can earn prosperity through hard work. Needing a little help along the way should never be used against someone in an immigration context. I promised to stand up with urgency and courage for Seattle, and that’s exactly what this lawsuit does. Seattle joins New York City, King County and other jurisdictions to fight to uphold our values.”

King County Prosecuting Attorney Leesa Manion:

“This latest unlawful immigration action by the Trump administration is a humanitarian disaster. As the daughter of an immigrant, I never thought I would see a day where our federal government would target immigrants who are legally establishing their status – all while working, paying taxes and contributing to the vibrancy of our community – simply for using any public program for any amount. The King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office will fight this federal rule in court with every resource available.

San Francisco City Attorney David Chiu:

“This rule forces people to make an impossible choice between a future in our country or their health and well-being. It is a blatant attempt to sow fear and confusion in our immigrant communities and coerce people into withdrawing from critical government services. We will all bear the cost of this misguided policy, which will shift millions of dollars in costs onto San Francisco. We will always welcome immigrants from all backgrounds and fight any attempts to institute a wealth test for citizenship.”

Santa Clara County Counsel Tony LoPresti:

“The Trump Administration’s illegal public charge rule flies in the face of more than a hundred years of law and history and decades of federal guidance—and we will not tolerate the harms it imposes on our residents. This is a deliberate attack against families, designed to bully them into dropping health insurance and delaying medical care, forgoing food assistance, and avoiding other critical services out of fear that accepting these essential but

supplemental supports will jeopardize their immigration status. It is legally wrong and morally bankrupt to force families to make the impossible choice between protecting their health and protecting their future. We will continue to stand up in court for dignity and opportunity for all.”

Girmay Zahilay, King County Executive for Washington State:

“The Trump Administration wants to force millions of people nationwide – including potentially several thousand of King County residents – to choose between food, housing, healthcare, and other services on the one hand, and pathways to citizenships on the other but we won’t let them. We are proud to join this coalition of governments, including our partners at the City of Seattle and New York City, to fight back on behalf of our communities.”