

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED FEDERAL PUBLIC CHARGE RULE
CHANGES

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 24, 2018

WHEREAS, the federal government is proposing changes to the “public charge” rules; and

WHEREAS, the current definition of “public charge” is a person who has become or is likely to become primarily dependent on the government for subsistence. Under the current policy, the only benefits considered in the public charge test are cash assistance and government-funded long-term institutional care; and

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2018, the federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published proposed rule changes in the federal register that would drastically change the definition of public charge to apply to anyone who is likely to use more than a minimal amount of cash, health, nutrition or housing programs; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rules would make it much more difficult for low and moderate income immigrants to get a green card, extend or change their temporary status in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, a value of our nation and Washtenaw County is opportunity; immigrants have come to this country with little and, over time, have contributed to our communities and improved their lives and the lives of their families. This proposed rule is inconsistent with that value; and

WHEREAS, a value of our nation and Washtenaw County is diversity; the proposed rule will disproportionately affect minorities and female headed households and is inconsistent with our values; and

WHEREAS, a value of our nation and Washtenaw County is humanitarian concern for persons facing political and religious persecution; the proposed rule will make it harder for these immigrants to safely travel to and remain in our country and is inconsistent with our values; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County has stated its support of being welcoming to immigrants by joining the Welcoming America campaign; and

WHEREAS, more than one in 10 Washtenaw County residents are immigrants; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rule will move people off of, and will prevent families from accessing federal benefits like SNAP, Section 8 housing, Medicaid, Marketplace, and leave them without basic food or medical care; and

WHEREAS, many of those people who leave the federal programs due to their fear of the rule will move to state or local programs, creating a huge burden on state and local government and on private healthcare providers and hospital systems; and

WHEREAS, some of those people who leave governmental programs due to their fear of the rule will go without treatment for communicable diseases, thus increasing the chances of a public health crisis for all of our residents; and

WHEREAS, immigrants make substantial contributions to the local community in diversity, cultural understanding, education, innovation and employment, and the proposed rule ignores these contributions by barring all but the wealthiest from immigrating, and

WHEREAS, family unity is an important value and the community is strengthened when individuals have a strong network to rely on; the proposed rule tears at this fabric by separating spouses, children, siblings, and grandparents from each other; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens and youth contribute to the community in a variety of ways; the proposed rule devalues these contributions by weighing nonworking age against those seeking permanent residence; and

WHEREAS, this will not just affect immigrants but also US citizens, particularly having an impact on citizen children.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby opposes the proposed public charge regulation (a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) published in the federal register on October 10, 2018;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners will submit comments before the rule becomes final and will send this resolution to the Washtenaw County congressional delegation, the Governor of the State of Michigan, and state representatives and senators.

COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A	COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A	COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A
Brabec	X			LaBarre	X			Smith	X		
Deatrick	X			Martinez-Kratz	X						
Jamnack	X			Morgan	X						
Jefferson	X			Ping			X				

CLERK/REGISTER'S CERTIFICATE - CERTIFIED COPY

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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STATE OF MICHIGAN)

I, Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register of said County of Washtenaw and Clerk of Circuit Court for said County, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners at a session held at the County Administration Building in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on October 24th, 2018, as it appears of record in my office.

COUNTY OF WASHTENAW)^{SS}.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court at Ann Arbor, this 25th day of October, 2018.

LAWRENCE KESTENBAUM, Clerk/Register

BY: _____ Deputy Clerk



Res. No. 18-160