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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

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February 16, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Nielsen:

We are writing to respectfully urge you to reject any proposal that expands the 1999 guidelines to direct consideration of any non-cash benefits in determining eligibility for immigrant status.

On February 8, 2018, it was reported that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is considering a new regulation that would expand the 1999 "Field Guidance on Deportability and Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds" guidelines for determining whether an applicant for permanent immigration status is a "public charge." U.S. immigration law has long required immigration officials to not grant legal permanent residence to a person that is or likely to become a "public charge." Since 1999, guidelines have narrowly defined "public charge" as a person "primarily dependent on the government for subsistence," either through direct cash assistance or government-funded long-term care.

If the new rules are adopted, non-cash benefits such as government food assistance programs, the Children's Health Insurance Program, or educational programs like Head Start would be subject to public charge consideration. The proposed rules would impact applicants receiving essential public benefits for themselves or their children, many of whom were born in the U.S.

In this time of heightened fear of deportation, immigrants are already hesitant or deterred from seeking government assistance for themselves and their families. The proposed rules under consideration would likely dissuade families from seeking assistance, including necessary health care for children, school programs, and child nutrition

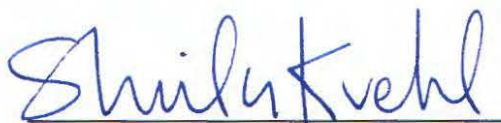
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programs for which U.S. children are entitled to. Such benefits are intended to provide the most vulnerable members of our community with critical services and assistance. Your assistance would help protect the health and basic subsistence of hard-working immigrants and their families in Los Angeles County and across the nation.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

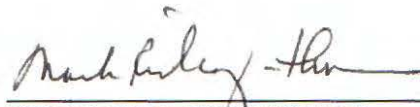
Sincerely,



SHEILA KUEHL
Chair of the Board
Supervisor, Third District



HILDA L. SOLIS
Supervisor, First District



MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Supervisor, Second District



JANICE HAHN
Supervisor, Fourth District



KATHRYN BARGER
Supervisor, Fifth District



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 12, 2018

Ms. Sheila Kuehl
Chair of the Board
County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Ms. Kuehl:

Thank you for your February 16, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

The Department of Homeland Security has placed on the regulatory agenda, and is currently working on a proposal, that would revise how public charge inadmissibility determinations are made in the future. Any proposed changes will be published in the *Federal Register*, and comments will be solicited from the public. Please feel free to submit any concerns or suggestions during the official comment period.

Unless or until changes are made to the interpretation of the public charge ground of inadmissibility, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services makes and will continue to make public charge inadmissibility determinations in accordance with Legacy INS 1999 Field Guidance on Deportability and Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Please share this response with the co-signers of your letter. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LFC", written over a horizontal line.

L. Francis Cissna
Director