

Immigration Updates

Sarang Sekhavat Federal Policy Director Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition

New Enforcement Priorities

- Convicted of any criminal offense
- Charged with any criminal offense
- Committed an act that constitutes a criminal offense
- Engaged in fraud or willful misrepresentation
- Abused a public benefits program
- Subject to a deportation order
- Risk to public safety or national security
- Eliminates categories for Prosecutorial Discretion!

DACA - Where are we?

September 5: announcement ending DACA

- January 9: CA District Court ruling keeping the program. USCIS quickly began accepting applications
 - 9th Circuit Court of Appeals heard case on May 15th.
- February 12: NY District Court ruling also kept program open.
- April 24: DC District Court ruling opening program to new applications
 - Decision stayed until July 23

Temporary Protected Status (cont.)

Country	Designated	Expires
El Salvador	2001	September 9, 2019
Haiti	2010	July 22, 2019
Honduras	1999	January 5, 2020
Nepal	2014	June 24, 2019
Nicaragua	1999	January 5, 2019
Somalia	2001	September 17, 2018
Sudan	2004	November 2, 2018
South Sudan	2011	May 2, 2019
Syria	2012	September 30, 2019
Yemen	2015	March 3, 2020

Travel Ban

Country	Banned	
Chad	•Immigrant •B1/B2 Non-Immigrant	
Iran	•Immigrant •Non-Immigrant - EXCEPT F, M, J	
Libya	•Immigrant •B1/B2 Non-Immigrant	
N Korea	•All	
Syria	•All	
Venezuela	•B1/B2 Non-Immigrant for government officials and their families	
Yemen	•Immigrant •B1/B2 Non-Immigrant	
Somalia	•Immigrant	

Public Charge

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What is "Public Charge"

- Refers to a person who is likely to become dependent on the government for financial or material support
- Can be the basis for denying admission
 - Non-immigrant visa
 - Green Card

Current Policy

An individual who is likely to become *primarily* dependent on the government for subsistence, as demonstrated by either the receipt of:

(1) Public cash assistance for income maintenance: TANF, SSI, or similar state and local programs

(2) Institutionalization for long-term care at government expense

Current Policy

NOT Subject to Public Charge Consideration

- Medicaid
- CHIP
- SNAP
- WIC
- Housing
- Child Care Services
- Energy Assistance

Proposed Policy

New Definition for "Public Charge"

An individual, "who is likely at any time to use or receive <u>one or more public benefits</u>."

Administration will also look at family members and their receipt of benefits

Proposed Policy

Subject to Public Charge Consideration

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Non-emergency Medicaid benefits
- Subsidized health insurance
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
- Housing assistance
- Means-tested energy benefits

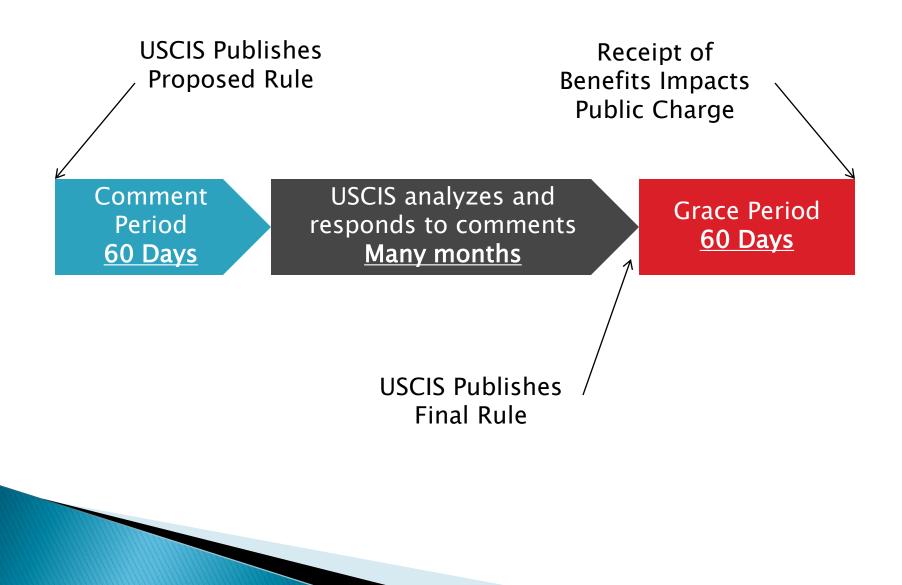
- Institutionalization for long-term and short-term care at government expense
- Earned income tax credits where the credit exceeds the tax liability
- Any other benefit for which eligibility is determined by income

Proposed Policy

INA §237 & Deportability

- §237(a)(5) allows for the deportation of those who become a public charge within 5 years of admission
- Draft proposed regulations includes a placeholder to add provisions relating to deportability criteria, but no exact language

Process and Timeline





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