



**COLORADO**  
Gov. John Hickenlooper

December 10, 2018

Samantha Deshommnes, Chief  
Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy and Strategy  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
20 Massachusetts Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20529-2140

**RE: DHS Docket No. USCIS-2010-0012: Proposed Rule on Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds**

Dear Ms. Deshommnes:

Colorado is the proud home to more than half a million immigrants, representing approximately 10 percent of our population. Immigrants help fuel Colorado's economy and enrich the fabric of our communities. The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) proposed changes to public charge determinations would hurt hard-working families trying to come to the United States, and those who are here legally.

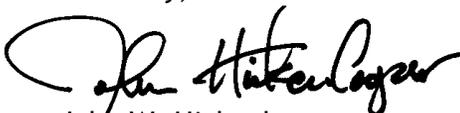
That's why we are joining with five of Colorado's state agencies to strongly urge DHS to withdraw the *Proposed Rule on the Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds*. These changes would undermine the health and economic security of thousands of Colorado families by having a chilling effect on enrollment in critical assistance programs like Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy, and housing assistance.

Potential damage extends beyond our state's immigrant population to Colorado's economy. As immigrant families are forced to make choices between paying for food, health, or other necessities, local businesses will suffer. The Colorado Fiscal Institute estimates that if 15 percent of immigrant families disenroll from the programs included in the proposed rule, Colorado's economy stands to lose nearly \$179 million and up to 1,217 jobs. If the rate of disenrollment is 35 percent, those costs would rise to \$417 million and 2,839 jobs.

Colorado has worked hard to build the nation's strongest state economy. Our goal is to ensure all residents can participate in that success. We strongly oppose federal action that makes it harder for certain segments of our population to participate in that prosperity. The proposed public charge rule changes run counter to our values as Coloradans and as Americans.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this potential policy change, and strongly urge the Department to withdraw the proposed rule.

Sincerely,

  
John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

