

A RESOLUTION AGAINST ANY PUBLIC CHARGE EFFORT

WHEREAS, the public charge rule aims to drastically restrict immigrant community members from accessing green cards and obtaining citizenship on the basis of their family income and health conditions.

WHEREAS, this is a devastating policy that will dramatically alter who are permitted to enter and stay in the United States.

WHEREAS, this policy change discourages immigrant communities from accessing and utilizing necessary welfare programs by instilling the fear of being denied a green card.

WHEREAS, there are approximately 115,555 Asians and Asian Americans and approximately 1,940 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPIs) enrolled throughout the University of California campuses¹ and 48% of UC undergraduate and 25% of graduate students experience some degree of food insecurity.²

WHEREAS, Asians ranked the highest among green card recipients in 2014 according to the Department of National Homeland Security.³

WHEREAS, the issue of public charge is greatly alarming for AAPI community as the number of Asian immigrants grew from 491,000 in 1960 to about 12.8 million in 2014⁴

WHEREAS, NHPI communities, also one of the fastest growing populations in the U.S., have increased by 40% from 2000 to 2010 alone, now making up 1.5 million people in the U.S⁵

WHEREAS, 52.2 million Americans that utilized government assistance programs in 2012, nearly 20% are Pacific Islanders, putting the NHPI community in an especially vulnerable position with the new public charge⁶.

WHEREAS, the needs of our communities can not be properly assessed and these systemic barriers will continue without a fair process.

WHEREAS, this proposed policy is inhumane as it would intimidate and prevent our community members from utilizing crucial resources they need to survive.

¹ <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/infocenter/disaggregated-data>

² <https://eatwell.healthy.ucla.edu/2018/03/02/the-calfresh-initiative-at-ucla-aims-to-end-food-insecurity-for-college-students/>

³ https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Lawful_Permanent_Residents_2014.pdf

⁴ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/asian-immigrants-united-states>

⁵ <http://aapidata.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/AAPIData-CAP-report.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2015/cb15-97.html>

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WHEREAS, the right to use public resources should not be used as a factor to discriminate against immigrants by obstructing the pathway to citizenship.

WHEREAS, communities like international students could face obstructions in their Visa processes and other institutional barriers in pursuing their education under the policy.

WHEREAS, other marginalized communities not mentioned in this resolution will be inevitably impacted by the public charge rule that are also cause for concern.

WHEREAS, the experiences of other marginalized communities impacted deserve to be highlighted and be prioritized as well in any discussions regarding the Public Charge policy given the nature of the national repercussions this policy is intended to have.

WHEREAS, we aim to help our communities as they continue to be terrorized by unjust immigration policies.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that USAC supports current and future efforts against public charge on UCLA's campus.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that USAC will continue to support immigrant rights.

FINALLY LET IT BE RESOLVED, that USAC will continue to work to ensure that all students receive proper public assistance.