



City of Austin

Steve Adler, Mayor

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April 26, 2022

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
United States Department of Homeland Security
20 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington DC 20529-2140

Re: DHS Docket No. USCIS-2021-0013
Comments in Response to Proposed Rulemaking: Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds

Dear Sir/Madam:

On behalf of the City of Austin, I submit these comments in strong support of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) proposal to implement a more fair and humane definition of who constitutes a “public charge” when evaluating noncitizens seeking admission to the United States or applying for permanent lawful residence in the United States. The City of Austin filed comments in opposition to the previous Administration’s 2019 “public charge” rule, which, in addition to being inhumane and unfair, would likely have had a deleterious impact on the national economy, national public health and welfare, and on Austin residents, the Austin economy, and on public health and welfare in Austin.

Austin is a vibrant and inclusive city where we celebrate diversity and believe that our community is at its best when all our residents can achieve the American Dream. Austin is home to 185,000 foreign-born individuals. If implemented, the 2019 rule would have discouraged many of these Austin residents from accessing health care, nutrition, housing assistance, and other supports that make their families and our community healthier and stronger. In addition, the City and other local public agencies would have been left to shoulder the cost of addressing the harm caused by the 2019 rule and its negative economic and public health impacts on Austin residents.

The approach for determining who potentially constitutes a “public charge” outlined in this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking would replace a vindictive and punitive approach with one that considers factors such as public health and the rights of the US citizen children of immigrants to access nutrition, health care, and developmental services without fear of running afoul of immigration laws.

Attached you will find the comments that the City of Austin filed in opposition to the proposal that became the 2019 rule. It goes into extensive detail about the negative impacts the 2019 rule would have had on Austin. They also make clear why the City is relieved that USCIS has issued this proposal and why the City strongly supports this proposed rule. We respectfully request that these comments be included in this docket.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Adler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Adler" clearly distinguishable.

Steve Adler
Mayor

Attached: City of Austin Public Charge Comments 2018