

Nevada Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Public Comment on Public Charge to the Nevada Legislative Committee on Health Care

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

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My name is Leann McAllister and I am the executive director of the Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Nevada AAP currently has 268 members most of whom are board-certified pediatricians, both primary and specialty care; members also include pediatric nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pediatric residents and medical students, all of whom live and work in Nevada and have dedicated their professional lives to the health of all children.

The AAP strongly opposes the public charge proposal issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security believing that it would harm immigrant families' willingness to access nutrition support, housing assistance, and health care.

At the end of last month, the Nevada AAP joined colleagues at similar professional organizations in our district to file three amicus briefs to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The briefs urged the Court to affirm a preliminary injunction to the Trump Administration's new rules that direct the State Department to deny green cards and visas to immigrants who are likely to use government assistance programs in the future.

Our briefs argued that the public charge regulation dramatically increases the likelihood that lawfully present immigrants and their families will forgo health and nutrition benefits to avoid negatively impacting their immigration status. The health and well-being of vulnerable children, pregnant and postpartum women, and individuals with disabilities will be most severely threatened.

The Nevada AAP offers its support to this Committee in its effort to do what it can to remove the burden of public charge regulation on Nevada children. We encourage Nevada families and doctors to visit the Protecting Immigrant Families website to better understand their rights and public charge.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter for Nevada children.

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