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Comment Submitted by Cindy Alvarado on behalf of The Simmons Foundation

This is a Comment on the **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Proposed Rule: Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds**

For related information, [Open Docket Folder](#)

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Comment

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing on behalf of The Simmons Foundation to express our strong opposition to the Department of Homeland Security's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (proposed rule) on public charge, published in the Federal Register on October 10, 2018.

The Simmons Foundation seeks to partner with organizations that strengthen women, youth and families while building an educated, tolerant and resilient community. We provide grants to nonprofit organizations serving the Greater Houston area that support youth, health, civic & community, and human services.

Our foundation fundamentally opposes the proposed rule on public charge due to the direct negative impact on our families and the widespread ripple effect it will have across our region and state. The proposed rule will undercut the health and well-being of millions of immigrant families and exacerbate hunger, child poverty, and homelessness among immigrants and U.S. citizen children living in mixed-status families. In Texas, an estimated 1.8 million children have at least one parent who isn't a U.S. citizen, and Houston is home to 569,000 children under the age of 18 who have a non-citizen parent. This regulation will force millions of parents to weigh the risk of future denial of lawful permanent residency status against the risk of denying their families access to safe housing, adequate food and health care. Enacting a regulation that undermines the health and well-being of families runs counter to philanthropic ideals and a foul of core American values. It will also do lasting damage to children that will hurt their future prospects for success.

If implemented, the proposed rule will roll back decades of investment by philanthropy to increase immigrant families access to health and social services, reduce racial and ethnic disparities, improve community health and wellbeing, help families weather temporary financial pressures and illnesses, and facilitate long-term self-sufficiency and

upward mobility. Already, nonprofit organizations and service providers are observing rapid drops in benefit enrollment caused by a sense of fear that is gripping our families. This means that needs will go unaddressed and time will only compound the complexity and severity of these needs, making it harder for nonprofit organizations to do their part for the public good.

Immigrant families are an integral part of our social and economic fabric, and the proposed rule on public charge will have negative consequences that will reverberate across all of our communities, immigrant or not. For all of these reasons, The Simmons Foundation strongly opposes the Department of Homeland Security's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on public charge.

Sincerely,

The Simmons Foundation
Houston, TX