



Congressperson Judy Chu
2423 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5464
Fax: (202) 225-5467
Re: HR-3222: Strong Support

Dear Representative Judy Chu

I write on behalf of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) to support HR-3222. CARA is California's largest grassroots senior and disability advocacy organization, representing over 1,000,000 seniors and their families through our 275 affiliated organizations and 18 local chapters.

HR-3222 blocks the use of any federal funds to implement the recently passed Department of Homeland Security Public Charge rule change.

We join hundreds of other senior, disability, civil rights, public health and immigrant rights advocates in outrage over the DHS Public Charge rule change that would disqualify immigrants in many categories from green cards or visas if DHS declares that they would be likely to use Medicaid, Food Stamps, Section 8 housing, or Medicare drug benefits in the future.

26 million immigrants who are legally here would be penalized for using services they are legally entitled to. Seniors, people with disabilities, people with medical conditions, and people with low income, skills, education, or English skills, predominantly people of color, would receive "negative" or even "highly negative" assessments in DHS's evaluation. Already, confusion and panic have led large numbers of immigrants who are not even covered by the rule change to withdraw from these and other vital benefits. As many have noted, this rule change, and others, like the HUD rule change against mixed-status immigrant families, are part of a racist and xenophobic attack against immigrants fleeing poverty and violence in their home countries, largely caused by United States economic and political policies.

We appreciate and applaud that many advocates and even government agencies are suing to block or delay this rule change in court. Nevertheless, we are also grateful that HR-3222 has been advanced to block implementation of the rule change in case court challenges fail.

HR-3222 also gives Congressional Representatives a particularly pointed way to show their opposition to the public charge rule change, and we note that almost half of the California Congressional delegation has indicated support. We hope this letter will help induce others to join.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hene Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hene Kelly
Legislative Director
415-533-5244