Under federal immigration law, the term “public charge” is used to describe a person who is dependent on government funded long-term care (e.g. nursing home care) or cash assistance for the majority of their support. If it is determined that an individual is likely to become a “public charge,” their application to enter the U.S. or become a lawful permanent resident may be denied. The administration is seeking to pass a rule broadening the definition of public charge to cover use of a wide range of supports that help families achieve and maintain economic security.

The proposed changes will harm Colorado communities, threaten the economy, and make it harder for families to make ends meet.

Health programs affected by the proposed rule changes include:
- Medicaid
- Children’s Health Insurance Program
- Affordable Care Act Insurance Subsidies (ACA Subsidies)

Today, more than 1.4 million Coloradans have regular access to health care because of public health programs.

In Colorado, the proposed rule change could lead to:
- 50,000 families losing health coverage
- $167M in lost economic activity
- 10,000 kids at risk of losing health coverage

Increased emergency room use
Lost health care jobs
Higher health care costs for all
Decreased funding for rural communities

www.coloradofiscal.org/publiccharge