

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 24, 2020
Steven Arroyo, Communications Coordinator
sarroyo@latinopolicyforum.org



SCOTUS Lifting of Illinois Public-Charge Injunction Further Obstructs Immigrants' Rights

CHICAGO – The Latino Policy Forum is disheartened by the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling, on February 21, 2020, to lift the Illinois statewide injunction that blocked the implementation of the expanded "public charge" rule. Given this ruling, the U.S Department of Homeland Security has been permitted to implement the revised rule in the State of Illinois.

Shortly after the U.S Supreme Court's decision, U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced the agency will begin implementing the final public charge rule to applications and petitions submitted by Illinois residents on and after February 24, 2020, the same date set for the nationwide implementation.

This regulation fundamentally threatens the admissibility process of many prospective Americans, primarily those who are seeking legal permanent residency through family-based petitions. This decision has already caused fear, confusion, and distrust among the Latino and immigrant communities.

Now is an important time for the Latino community to stay informed of its rights. The majority of immigrants and their families will still be able to access basic and life-saving benefits without immigration consequences, as many essential public benefits, including Medicaid for persons under 21 and expecting mothers, are not included in the final rule.

Although the statewide injunction for Illinois has been lifted, the case continues to be legally challenged. For more specific information about who can potentially be impacted by this new regulation, please visit protectingimmigrantfamiliesillinois.org.

The Latino Policy Forum is part of the Protecting Immigrant Families campaign (led by the National Immigration Law Center and Center for Law and Social Policy) and co-convenes the Protecting Immigrant Families Illinois (PIF-IL) coalition with the Shriver Center on Poverty Law, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and Legal Council for Health Justice. PIF-IL works to defend access to basic essential programs for all.