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SCOTUS Public Charge Decision Is Yet Another Blow to Immigrant Families

The Latino Policy Forum denounces the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling yesterday to lift a nationwide injunction and allow the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to implement the expanded "public charge" rule.

The revised public charge rule targets individuals seeking lawful permanent status in the U.S. who depend on certain temporary public-assistance benefits such as Medicaid, food stamps, and public housing.

This rule does not apply in Illinois, as there is a separate statewide injunction blocking its implementation. It continues to be legally challenged in the lower courts.

While this regulation will make basic, vital resources inaccessible to some immigrant families, most immigrants will still be able to access much-needed benefits.

To find out who would qualify as a public charge, see the [updating public charge fact sheet](https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org) at protectingimmigrantfamilies.org.

This regulation could be irreversibly detrimental to the Latino community, forcing many to neglect their own well-being in order to qualify for legal status. The anxiety and confusion around this regulation has already intimidated Latino families, many of whom are exempt from this rule, into disenrolling from government programs and services.

"The Supreme Court's public charge ruling has allowed the Trump administration to continue its fear-mongering tactics against some of the most vulnerable communities in this country," says Latino Policy Forum Executive Director Sylvia Puente. "The Forum is committed to advancing fair and just immigration policies and practices and will continue advocating on behalf of immigrant families in Illinois, ensuring that communities are aware of their rights and the resources available to them."

The Latino Policy Forum is part of the Protecting Immigrant Families campaign (led by 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 for 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.

