



**ZERO TO THREE**  
Early connections last a lifetime

**POLICY &  
ADVOCACY**

**TAKE ACTION!**

**BE A BIG VOICE FOR LITTLE KIDS™**



October 10, 2018

<https://www.zerotothree.org/>

Today the Administration published a proposed rule on public charge that puts the healthy development of millions of children living in immigrant families at risk and creates wrenching choices for families. The proposed rule expands the definition of who is considered a “public charge” when applying for a green card or visa. Under the new proposed definition, if families access or are deemed likely to access specific public programs that help them meet the basic needs of their children, including Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and housing assistance, they jeopardize their opportunity for legal status in the United States.

When babies have access to supports that provide safe, stable housing, access to quality, affordable health care, and good nutrition, they are set on a path for healthy development. If parents aren’t able to receive these benefits or are afraid to access them, the entire family suffers. Asking families to choose between safe haven in the United States and [these essential public services](#) is no choice at all. Whichever way families choose, babies lose.

**For 60 days, advocates have an opportunity to submit comments in opposition to the proposed rule.** In partnership with the Protecting Immigrant Families coalition, ZERO TO THREE is commenting about the long-lasting consequences this rule will have on babies and families. Join us and share your concerns!

**1. [Learn more:](#)** We have posted a number of resources on the change to the definition of public charge and how it affects young children.

**2. [Submit a comment:](#)** The federal government is required to read every comment that is submitted before they can publish their final rule. The number of responses matters! Click [here](#) for information, talking points, a submission form, and an email template. *Note that submitting the template as it is written is not enough; the government will count identical comments as one comment. Please use the talking points and your expertise working with young children to individualize your message.*

**3. Share on social media:** Adapt the posts below to share with your networks.

With their proposed definition of public charge, the Administration would force many families to choose between safe haven in the United States and essential services for their babies. Either way they choose, babies lose. Be a Big Voice for Little Kids! For more information and opportunities for action, go to [www.zerotothree.org/PublicCharge](http://www.zerotothree.org/PublicCharge).

With their proposed #PublicCharge definition, the Administration would force many families to choose between safe haven in the US and essential services for their babies. Speak out to #ProtectImmigrantFamilies at [www.zerotothree.org/PublicCharge](http://www.zerotothree.org/PublicCharge).

