



Seattle Office of Labor Standards

On October 19, 2018, OLS submitted the following public comment opposing the Trump Administration's proposed rulemaking on the definition of the term "public charge":

"On behalf of the Seattle Office of Labor Standards, I write to oppose in the strongest possible terms the Department of Homeland Security's cruel proposal to vastly expand the definition of "public charge." The proposed rule will adversely impact millions of immigrant families hoping to secure their permanent future in this country by discouraging them from seeking essential health and housing programs. Cities and states would also be harmed due to decreased participation in programs that improve the well-being of their communities.

We at the Office of Labor Standards are proud to help immigrant workers obtain their rights to a fair and equitable workplace and consider them vital partners in our mission to improve the lives of all workers. The proposed rule will discourage immigrant workers from accessing not only basic government services but also from reporting labor standards violations and providing witness testimony concerning their co-workers. If immigrant communities are unable to help remedy labor violations in the workplace, all workers, regardless of their immigration status, will be harmed.

We urge the immediate withdrawal of this proposed rule."

Martin S. Garfinkel
Director, Seattle Office of Labor Standards