



THE PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICAID

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Partnership for Medicaid Opposes Public Charge Final Rule

(WASHINGTON, DC) – The Partnership for Medicaid – a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition of doctors, health care providers, safety-net health plans, counties and labor – strongly opposes the public charge rule finalized earlier today by the Administration.

This rule expands the number of social services or benefits – including Medicaid – to be considered when determining “public charge” status. Individuals subject to this new determination will find it more difficult to obtain legal resident status if they access Medicaid. As a result, millions of individuals who are eligible for these vital programs likely will forgo needed health coverage and services.

In a December 2018 [letter](#) to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Partnership for Medicaid expressed its strong opposition to including Medicaid and CHIP in the DHS definition of “public benefit.” The Partnership warned that the rule would increase uninsurance and uncompensated care that will undermine patients’ health and negatively affect safety-net providers, states, cities, and counties.

A Kaiser Family Foundation [analysis](#) found that up to 4.9 million Medicaid/CHIP enrollees living in a family with at least one non-citizen may disenroll in coverage because of the confusion and disruption created by the final rule. More than 19 million children – 86 percent of whom are American citizens – live with an immigrant parent and may be affected by this confusion.

As safety-net providers and health plans most likely to provide care and services to the populations most affected by this final rule, the Partnership for Medicaid continues to express its serious concern with the expanded definition of “public charge.” We stand ready to work with the Administration to ensure all Medicaid eligible beneficiaries have access to high-quality health coverage, without fear of being determined to be a “public charge”.

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The Partnership for Medicaid is a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition made up of organizations representing doctors, health care providers, safety-net health plans, counties, and labor. The goal of the coalition is to preserve and improve the Medicaid program.

The Partnership for Medicaid seeks to raise awareness about the vital role played by the Medicaid program, which provides essential health care services to more than 72 million people. By working in a bipartisan manner with all levels of government and affected constituency groups, we seek to provide viable solutions to improving the

quality and delivery of services, with the aim of constraining costs without undermining the program's fundamental goals.

Above all, **The Partnership for Medicaid** is a unified voice to ensure that Medicaid continues its crucial role as a strong safety-net for vulnerable Americans.