



THE PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICAID

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 2020

Partnership for Medicaid Opposes Reinstatement of Public Charge Final Rule

(WASHINGTON, DC) – The Partnership for Medicaid – a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition of clinicians, health care providers, safety-net health plans, counties, and labor – strongly opposes recent action taken by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to resume enforcement of the “public charge” rule finalized by the Administration in 2019.

Implementation of the rule, which added Medicaid and other programs to the list of social services and benefits considered when determining “public charge” status, was temporarily halted by federal court action. The Administration’s decision last week to reinstate the rule will not only heighten barriers for individuals seeking to obtain or adjust their legal resident status if they access Medicaid, but also increase confusion for individuals looking to access health care services.

The Partnership harbors serious and urgent concerns that millions of individuals who are eligible for Medicaid and other vital programs will now forgo needed health coverage and services because of this rule. The increased risks to health and life posed by this rule during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic only strengthens our opposition to its reimplementation.

The public charge rule has already kept patients from seeking care. Implementation of this rule will also continue to negatively affect safety-net providers, states, cities, and counties, adding avoidable stress to key health care stakeholders already experiencing monumental challenges as they uphold their responsibility to their communities during this unprecedented pandemic. As safety-net providers and health plans serving the populations most affected by this final rule, the Partnership for Medicaid continues to oppose the expanded definition of “public charge.”

We stand ready to work with the Administration to ensure all Medicaid-eligible beneficiaries have increased access to high-quality health coverage without fear of being deemed a “public charge.”

###

The Partnership for Medicaid is a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition made up of organizations representing clinicians, 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.