

Medicine for Migration

National Week of Advocacy Opposing the “Public Charge” Proposal

December 3-10

“Public charge” is a designation that deems one unfit for a visa, visa extension, or lawful permanent residency based on one’s likelihood to be “dependent on public benefits”. Historically, only cash benefits and long-term care were considered in this determination but on October 10, the Administration released a proposal to also consider the use of health, housing, and nutrition benefits. Major medical associations, including the AMA, have released statements opposing this rule as it will hurt our patients and lead to a public health crisis. We are nearing the end of a public comment period that closes on December 10. As submitting comments is the best way to stop this regulation, we are calling on healthcare professionals and students to stand against this cruel proposal and call for its withdrawal. Stand up for our patients and demand that nobody be forced to choose between their immigration status and their health, their home, or feeding their family.

Get involved:

Step 1: Post a public comment here (instructions here)

Step 2: Join our event on Facebook and use our social media filters and images

Step 3: Join schools across the nation and commit your program to host a teach-in and public comment drive during the National Advocacy Week, December 3 - 10.

Programs across the country* are getting involved. For example, at **UCSF School of Medicine** students are kicking off the week with a teach-in and public comment drive before organizing a demonstration that will provide space for people to share their stories. **Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai** students are planning teach-ins throughout the week that will culminate in a public comment drive in the hospital atrium.

Check out the Advocacy Week Toolkit to see how you can join us. We appreciate you sharing this information with any students or healthcare professionals that may be interested. Most importantly, thank you for taking a stand for our patients.

*As of November 26, events have been planned at UCSF School of Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Weill Cornell Medical School, Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Downstate Medical School, Harvard Medical School, the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, Stanford Medical School, University of Rochester Medical School, UC Davis School of Medicine, UC Irvine School of Medicine, University of Nebraska College of Medicine, NYU School of Medicine, SUNY Upstate Medical School, Emory Medical School, Columbia P&S Medical School, Columbia Mailman School of Public Health, Touro California, McGovern Medical School, UC San Diego School of Medicine.

#MedicineForMigration

Contact **ucsfmedicineformigration@gmail.com** and **alec.feuerbach@icahn.mssm.edu** to get involved.

