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**Supervisor Wilma Chan Condemns Trump Administration Policy  
Change Targeting Immigrant Families**

*New "Public Charge" Rule to Deny Access to Benefits, Increase Family Separations in  
Immigrant Communities*

**Oakland, CA** – Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan today denounced an impending Trump Administration policy change that would maliciously penalize legal immigrants seeking permanent residency for utilizing indispensable government benefit programs.

The policy, known as "Public Charge", currently applies to immigrants reliant on cash assistance programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (known as CalWORKs) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The Administration's policy change, scheduled to go into effect on October 15<sup>th</sup>, expands this definition to include recipients of preventative health care, food assistance, and affordable housing programs, including Section 8 and other programs such as Medicaid (known as Medi-Cal) and SNAP (known as CalFresh).

By allowing the federal government to use these enrollments as a primary criteria for determining green card status, this change would force over 26 million people nationwide to choose between pursuing a legal path to citizenship and access to programs necessary for their family's health and safety. In everyday terms, the consequences of this law include preventing many law-abiding individuals from remaining in the United States, as well as further deepening inequities by increasing health disparities, poverty, unsafe housing, and nutritional deficits.

"This un-American, mean-spirited policy is just another example of the Trump Administration caring more about partisan politics than the health and prosperity of millions of individuals and families," Supervisor Chan said. "Through this change to Public Charge, the President will turn programs meant to provide a safety net to our most

vulnerable citizens into a weapon that will break families apart, devastate lives, and make our nation less safe for all who live here.”

In Alameda County, this rule change would adversely impact immigrant families currently receiving programs such as Medi-Cal, CalFresh, and General Assistance. At present, the County is home to approximately 65,500 households with at least one immigrant recipient of Medi-Cal or CalFresh.

“The final rule is inhumane, families should not have to choose between basic necessities or securing their immigration status,” said Lori A. Cox, Agency Director for the Alameda County Social Services Agency. “We remain committed to serving all those who are eligible for public benefits including immigrants. We encourage those concerned about how the new federal changes may or may not affect their individual case to seek legal representation.”

The change to Public Charge is just one of several Trump Administration proposals to create an Invisible Wall that targets immigrant communities and individuals seeking residency. Companion regulations drafted by the Department of Justice would expand deportations based on a family’s reliance on public programs, which would lead to an increase in unnecessary family separations. And the Department of Housing and Urban Development had recommended denying housing assistance to mixed-status families that include an undocumented individual, which would make an estimated 55,000 U.S.-born children homeless.

“Alameda County remains committed to the well-being of all of our residents regardless of immigration status,” said Alameda County Board President Richard Valle. “Our Office stands alongside the organizations and community members challenging the rule change for the sake of the health, safety and dignity of our immigrant communities.”

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### **About Supervisor Wilma Chan**

Alameda County Supervisor Chan represents District 3, which includes the cities of Alameda, San Leandro, parts of Oakland including Chinatown, Jack London, Fruitvale and San Antonio neighborhoods, and the unincorporated community of San Lorenzo. She is currently Chair of the Health Committee, and a member of the County’s Personnel, Administration, and Legislation Committee, the Budget Workgroup, the Unincorporated Services Committee, and the Ad Hoc Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights. For more on Supervisor Chan’s accomplishments and current initiatives, please visit [www.acgov.gov/board/district3](http://www.acgov.gov/board/district3) or connect on Facebook with “Supervisor Wilma Chan.”

### **About Supervisor Richard Valle**

Supervisor Richard Valle is currently serving as President of the Board and has served as the Supervisor of District 2 since June 11, 2012. He was elected in November 2012 and has focused on collectively working with the community to identify solutions to long-standing issues that impact our communities. Particularly focusing on youth development, employment and training, immigration, criminal justice and delivering improved social services. For more on Supervisor Valle's accomplishments and current initiatives, please visit <https://www.acgov.org/board/district2/>

### **About Alameda County Social Services Agency (ACSSA)**

The Alameda County Social Services Agency promotes the economic and social well-being of individuals, families, neighborhoods and communities. Working collectively and in partnership with community-based organizations, neighborhood groups and policy makers to serve the needs of the community, the ACSSA reaches nearly 25% of the County's 1.6 million residents to assure that all people's basic needs are met and protect the most vulnerable children, older adults, homeless, immigrants and refugees. ACSSA serves the needs of fourth most diverse County in the United States, and seventh largest County in California.