



The Leadership Team's ...

Response to U.S. Administration's New Rule that Punishes Our Vulnerable Immigrant Families

September 27, 2018

We, the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA, strongly disapprove of the Trump administration's policies that continue to generate distress and anguish among our immigrant communities. In this case, it is the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's proposed changes to the public charge regulation. No one should be forced to choose between accessing medicine, housing, and food for their children and risking their eligibility for possible legal permanent residency. We have promised to commit ourselves to meeting the needs of the poor, marginalized and vulnerable. We stand firm in our resolve to do this as we fulfill our mission: "We live and work so that all people may be united with God and with one another."

Implementing this newly proposed rule [*Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds*](#), will escalate difficulties to obtain lawful status and discourage immigrants from accessing benefits for which their children qualify. The continued attempts to target our immigrant community through unjust policies threatens the values for which our nation stands.

Our immigrant community pays taxes. It accounts for about 13.5% of the U.S. population ([BushCenter.org](#)). Yet, in the past 10 years, our immigrant brothers and sisters have been responsible for half of the total U.S. labor force growth. Our immigrant community is integral to our nation's economy.

We stand with the [Leadership of Women Religious Statement](#) and [U.S. Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph](#) in calling upon all people to make their voices heard in support for protection of our vulnerable immigrant community. Make your voices heard now and when the Open Comment period about the proposed changes is available.