

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5331

To provide that no Federal funds may be used to carry out the final rule of the Department of Homeland Security entitled “Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility”, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 6, 2026

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. Kaine, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SCHIFF) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide that no Federal funds may be used to carry out the final rule of the Department of Homeland Security entitled “Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility”, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protect American Val-
5 ues Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) immigrants and their families are a core
2 part of this Nation;

3 (2) their health and safety is critical to the
4 health and safety of our communities;

5 (3) Federal, State, and local assistance pro-
6 grams promote self-sufficiency by ensuring that fam-
7 ilies, including immigrant and mixed-status families,
8 maintain their health, strength, and stability, and
9 can continue contributing to this Nation’s social and
10 economic life;

11 (4) the rule of the Department of Homeland
12 Security entitled “Public Charge Ground of Inadmis-
13 sibility” is a dangerous policy that will impede ac-
14 cess to essential food, medical care, and housing for
15 many families, while injecting severe uncertainty and
16 arbitrariness for immigrants adjusting to lawful per-
17 manent resident status;

18 (5) the rule would damage State and local
19 economies while burdening health and service pro-
20 viders, and the Department of Homeland Security
21 itself, in the preamble of the proposed rule, acknowl-
22 edges the severe consequences of this proposal in-
23 cluding that it could have, “downstream and up-
24 stream impacts on State and local economies, large
25 and small businesses, and individuals”, would “in-

1 crease the poverty of certain families and children,
 2 including U.S. [C]itizen children”, and “may lead to
 3 downstream effects on public health, community sta-
 4 bility, and resilience” including “[w]orse health out-
 5 comes, such as increased prevalence of obesity and
 6 malnutrition”, “[h]igher prevalence of communicable
 7 diseases”, and “[i]ncreased rates of uncompensated
 8 care”; and

9 (6) the rule would circumvent Congress and re-
 10 verse over 140 years of law and policy, restricting
 11 immigration and chilling access to services for which
 12 immigrants and their United States citizen family
 13 members are eligible, in a manner not authorized or
 14 contemplated by Congress.

15 **SEC. 3. RESTRICTION ON FEDERAL FUNDS.**

16 No Federal funds (including fees) made available for
 17 any fiscal year, may be used to implement, administer, en-
 18 force, or carry out the rule of the Department of Home-
 19 land Security entitled “Public Charge Ground of Inadmis-
 20 sibility” (91 Fed. Reg. 45324 (July 20, 2026)) or any
 21 guidance or sub-regulatory policy that implements or clari-
 22 fies such.

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