Make sure to modify template comments to reflect your own experience so your contribution counts as **unique comment**!

**Sample Comments from an Individual:**

I strongly oppose the proposed public charge regulation that would force millions of children and families to forgo essential public benefits, resulting in nationwide increases in hunger and poverty. [add your story here: *Why is protecting immigrant access to SNAP (CalFresh), Medicaid (Medi-Cal), and section 8 housing vouchers important for you? To your community as a whole?*] In order for our communities to thrive, everyone in those communities must be able to get the care, services and support they need to remain healthy and productive. This proposal won’t just hurt immigrants—it will degrade the health and well-being of our nation as a whole.

I am writing to strongly oppose the Department of Homeland Security’s proposed “public charge” rule change. SNAP (known in California as CalFresh) is a vital resource that provides children the food they need to fuel healthy development and lifelong success. If fear of immigration consequences were to cause parents to forgo CalFresh benefits for their children, despite their being legally eligible, the impact on health and economic outcomes will be felt for generations. [add your story here: *Why is protecting access to basic needs assistance (food, health care, and housing) for children in immigrant families important to you? To your community as a whole?*]

I am writing to strongly oppose the Department of Homeland Security’s proposed “public charge” regulation that would severely limit low-income people’s ability to buy food, having devastating effects on local economies and the well-being of our communities. Immigrant households provide funding for safety-net programs with their tax contributions, and their spending on food and health services provides jobs to American workers and supports businesses. [add your story here: *Why is protecting immigrant access to SNAP (CalFresh) important to you? To your community as a whole?*] SNAP is an effective anti-hunger tool, discouraging immigrants and their families from participating would drive entire communities deeper into hunger and poverty.

**Sample Comments from an Organization**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of [organization name] to express our strong opposition to the changes proposed by the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) regarding “public charge,” published in the federal register on October 10th, 2018.

[Insert paragraph describing your organization and why this is particularly urgent to you, plus the expertise that you have on issues raised]. XYZ organization is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ organization based in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Our mission is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

California cannot prosper if our immigrant neighbors are afraid to get the help they need to stay strong and productive, and raise children who thrive. Programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (or CalFresh as termed in California), Medicaid (MediCal in California), and Section 8 Housing Vouchers, support working families whose low wages won’t afford them what they need to get ahead. Adding these to the list of programs considered under “public charge” won't just hurt immigrants—it would drive entire communities deeper into poverty and hunger.

This change would force immigrant families to make an impossible choice between meeting their basic needs, or pursuing a legal and permanent future together in the United States. Fear of immigration consequences, and uncertainty over who this rule actually applies to, will cause families to forgo essential benefits for eligible children and family members. CalFresh outreach workers have already reported changes in program utilization due to fears stemming from the leaked draft regulations.

[organization name] strongly believes that people who are eligible for anti-hunger programs should not be deterred, penalized, or stigmatized, and should not suffer adverse immigration consequences for using benefits they are eligible to receive. This proposal threatens to roll back progress made in addressing hunger and poverty [add any other goals here] in the California communities we serve. For these reasons, the Department of Homeland Security should immediately withdraw its current proposal, and dedicate its efforts to advancing policies that strengthen—rather than undermine—the ability of immigrants to support themselves and their families in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments. Please do not hesitate to contact [FILL IN] to provide further information.

[Name]

[Title]

[organization name]