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BELINDA S. RAY (1)
SPENCER R. THIBODEAU (2)
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JUSTIN COSTA (4)

CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

KIMBERLY COOK (5)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)
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NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES, JR (A/L)

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
RULE CHANGE RE: “PUBLIC CHARGE”**

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) has proposed a revision to the rule called Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds, which proposes to change a formula the government uses to define the likelihood that an immigrant would be reliant on the government for his or her livelihood; and

WHEREAS, currently the immigration system considers only cash assistance such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Social Security Income (SSI), and government-funded long-term institutional care at the government’s expense in order to determine who is likely to become a “public charge”; and

WHEREAS, this proposed rule would upend the long-standing practice of helping immigrant families as they seek to thrive in the United States by expanding the list of assistance programs that determine who is a “Public Charge” to include certain health care, nutrition and housing programs; and

WHEREAS, this proposed rule change would adversely impact the health of communities by discouraging immigrants who are legally eligible for health care, nutrition and housing programs to apply for them, in fear of being denied admission, having their visas canceled, or other consequences adverse to resettlement; and

WHEREAS, the change would allow DHS to deny certain green cards and temporary visas to those moving through the process of becoming legal permanent residents, and, potentially, citizens, and could impact up to 500,000 immigrants who are already in the United States on temporary visas and who have children born here; and

WHEREAS, this rule change would drastically change our immigration system by awarding extra weight to the category of high income with its simple qualification of having a household income 250% above of the federal poverty line, and it would adversely impact those who earn less than 125% of federal poverty line; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that all of our residents and their families have the right to thrive, including our immigrant neighbors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Portland City Council opposes this proposed rule change by DHS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be approved as an emergency and effective immediately, in order to be submitted in opposition to this DHS Rule Change by the deadline of December 10, 2018.