



**ACT TODAY!**

**[COMMENT ON PUBLIC CHARGE](#) [COMMENT ON THE FLORES SETTLEMENT](#)**

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are advocating for vulnerable immigrant populations who would be impacted by changes to the Public Charge and to the Flores Settlement. These are not proposed changes to legislation but are considered rule changes. We encourage you to submit public comments on both of these proposed rule changes, as all public comments must be read prior to the rule changes are enacted. Please join us in raising concern for immigration justice and family separation.

### **PUBLIC CHARGE**

“Public charge” is a term given to any person deemed dependent on government assistance. Only 1% of the immigrant population is dependent on government assistance. Although it’s a concept dating back to the 1800s, public charge hasn’t been formally defined prior to now. In fact, it’s rarely used. By defining public charge, vulnerable immigrant communities would be made even more vulnerable. Those impacted most would be people seeking a green card, and immigrants seeking to enter the US with a visa. When the change is made, individuals receiving benefits would continue doing so.

The deadline for comment is December 10, 2018.

Sample talking points on Public Charge:

- As people of faith, we welcome our neighbors and support reasonable immigration reform. This proposed change would only do harm.
- Those most impacted by the proposed rule change would be people seeking a green card, and immigrants seeking to enter the US with a visa.
- We seek to help vulnerable populations become self-reliant, rather than create more barriers thus pushing them further into poverty.

**[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PUBLIC CHARGE](#)**

**[COMMENT ON PUBLIC CHARGE](#) (same link as at beginning)**

### **THE THE FLORESSETTLEMENT**

Reno v. Flores, also known as “The Flores Settlement” was a 1997 Supreme Court ruling set standards for immigrant minors when going through the court system. Specifically, the case addressed the issue of unaccompanied minors when in the custody of federal authorities. It ruled that

detained children must be released to parents, a legal guardian, another relative, or a vetted entity willing to take legal custody of the child within 20 days.

If Flores is overturned, the result could be indefinite family detention and separation.

The deadline for comment is November 6, 2018.

Talking points on the Flores Settlement:

- As a person of faith, I strongly advocate for all people being treated with dignity, respect, and for everyone to have the right to be accompanied by those they love- their family.
- I see this as a violation of human rights. Basic dignity and respect should be part of the mutuality in our country and to our global neighbors.
- It is appropriate and reasonable to set a time limit on how long a family can be separated, as it applies to minors.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FLORES SETTLEMENT](#)

[COMMENT ON THE FLORES SETTLEMENT](#) (same link as at beginning)

We urgently request that you make public comment on both of these proposed rule changes. If you need assistance with submitting public comments on either, please do not hesitate to contact the LOPPW office.

With Peace,

Kelsey L. Johnson  
Hunger Advocacy Fellow