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To the New York State Congressional Delegation:

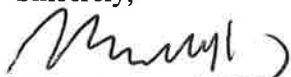
As the largest public health system in the country, NYC Health + Hospitals is deeply concerned about the impact of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's "Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds" notice of proposed rulemaking. Since I know you share these concerns, I am writing to alert you to new analysis that reflects the potentially devastating impact this policy would have on our health system and the communities we serve. The analysis estimates the policy has the potential to harm nearly 350,000 of our patients and result in up to \$362 million in losses for our health system in the first year alone due to reductions in reimbursement, patient utilization, and collectability.

As you are aware, the proposed rule would create a new standard for immigration officials to determine whether to grant immigrants lawful permanent residence in the United States. Under the policy, immigrants who have received, or are judged likely to receive, certain public assistance such as health coverage through Medicaid may be denied lawful permanent residence in the United States.

This policy would have far-reaching consequences for the patients and communities that we serve. If the proposal takes effect, we estimate that nearly 350,000 patients could change their behavior in some way. Some may drop Medicaid coverage or avoid doctor's visits except for emergencies. Others may forgo prenatal and postnatal care, fail to fill needed prescriptions for communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, or decline to enroll in other non-medical benefits they need to survive. Already, NYC Health + Hospitals has received reports of patients disenrolling from health insurance coverage and other critical benefits as a direct result of this policy—putting patients, their families, and our communities at risk.

We appreciate your continued advocacy on this critical issue, and your ongoing commitment to ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to the health care they need and deserve. For any questions regarding the impact of this rule on our health system, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to Matthew Siegler, Senior Vice President of Managed Care, at (212) 788-3479.

Sincerely,



Mitchell Katz, M.D.

cc: New York State and City Elected Officials

Enclosure