

**Contact:** Elizabeth Cooper, Second Harvest Heartland 651-209-7913, ecooper@2harvest.org

## **Hunger-relief Partners Statement on Proposed Changes to Public Charge Rule**

We are united in our opposition to the Trump administration's public charge rule that would essentially force legal immigrants to choose between food support and their families. We are concerned about the impact of the policy, as it will result in increased demand on Minnesota's already-strained emergency food system or, worse, it will mean that **immigrant families will choose not to seek out the food support they need.**

**Our opposition to the public charge rule is squarely focused on our belief that all people need access to healthy, fresh food to reach their full potential.** This benefits our neighbors, our communities and the future economic vitality of our region.

The public charge rule will harm vulnerable people by denying them food assistance when they need it most.

### **Signed,**

Allison O'Toole  
CEO  
Second Harvest Heartland

Shaye Morris  
Executive Director  
Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank

Virginia Merritt  
Executive Director  
Channel One Regional Food Bank

Lori Thorpe  
Executive Director  
The Food Group

Colleen Moriarty  
Executive Director  
Hunger Solutions

Sue Estee  
Executive Director  
Second Harvest North Central Food Bank