

# Backdoor rule to target poor migrants

President Trump has revived a 19th-Century rule targeting hundreds of thousands of poor immigrants deemed likely to become “public charges,” with dependence on public benefits

## Public charges:

Foreign nationals who receive one or more designated public benefit\* for more than 12 months within any 36-month period

## \$2.47 billion

Estimate that public charge rule will save annually by dissuading migrants from legally using health or food aid

**250%** Income needs to be above 250% of poverty line – \$12,490 for individuals, \$25,750 for family of four – to pass public charge test



**Statue of Liberty:** “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free” – Emma Lazarus’s 1883 sonnet “The New Colossus”

**9.5 million**

Number of families with children on SNAP food stamps



**Seven in 10**

Number of recent legal immigrants from Mexico and Central America (71%) who would not clear 250% threshold, compared with 34% of those from Canada and 25% from India

*\*Public benefits include Supplemental Security Income, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programme (SNAP), and most forms of Medicaid and public housing programmes*