

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2020 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-3-2020

Proposed by Council Member Taveras

Introduced by Council Members Taveras, Glaros, Ivey, Dernoga, Hawkins, Turner,
Harrison, Davis and Franklin

Date of Introduction February 11, 2020

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Building a Thriving Community and the Expanded Public Charge Rule

3 For the purpose of recognizing the threat to the Prince George’s County community by the
4 Supreme Court ruling that allows the expanded public charge rule to be enforced and declaring
5 the value and contributions of immigrants and immigrant families to Prince George’s County.

6 WHEREAS, Emma Lazarus’s words on the Statute of Liberty, “Give me your tired, your
7 poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free”, asserts American identity is founded in
8 welcoming immigrants, regardless of their origin or economic status; and

9 WHEREAS, the expanded public charge rule would consider any person who uses one or
10 more of public benefits including Medicaid, Medicare, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
11 Program (SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children
12 (WIC), and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) a public charge to the
13 United States government and consider denying them entry to the United States, legal permanent
14 resident status, or naturalization; and

15 WHEREAS, on January 27, 2020 the United States Supreme Court allowed the expanded
16 public charge rule to be enforced; and

17 WHEREAS, the public charge rule has been abused in the past to exclude Jews fleeing Nazi
18 Germany, Irish Catholics, LGBTQ+ individuals, individuals with disabilities, and unmarried
19 women from entering the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, the federal government has already disqualified over 12,000 visa applicants on
21 public charge grounds in 2019, compared to 1,033 rejected in fiscal year 2016, under the Obama
22 administration; and

1 WHEREAS, 27% of immigrants with legal status in the United States could face a public
2 charge designation and therefore stop seeking benefits they are legally entitled to; and

3 WHEREAS, 10.4 million children who are American citizens live with at least one
4 immigrant parent who could stop seeking benefits they and their children are legally entitled to;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the United States reached historic health coverage levels for children, with
7 95% of children covered in 2016, which would stand to plummet with the expansion of the
8 public charge rule; and

9 WHEREAS, the expanded public charge law also discriminates against those living with
10 disabilities as having a medical condition and being unable to show evidence of unsubsidized
11 health insurance is also grounds for being denied entry, legal permanent resident status, and
12 naturalization; and

13 WHEREAS, Prince George’s County has 32,749 adults eligible for naturalization, which
14 represent almost 4.7% of all adults in Prince George’s County, and were they to become
15 naturalized, would add 5.6 % to the eligible active voters in Prince George’s County; and

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
17 County, Maryland, that the Prince George’s County Council joins leaders across the country in
18 opposing the expansion of the public charge rule and affirming the desire to create a welcoming,
19 healthy, and thriving community in Prince George’s County.

Adopted this 11th day of February, 2020.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Todd M. Turner
Council Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council