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Welcome Community Navigators to our sixth edition newsletter. We hope to provide you with updates and news regarding immigration as well as opportunities to help at the beginning of every month. The Community Navigator Director and Intern have been hard at work with providing updated trainings to you all. We are happy to announce that we will be offering updated Community Engagement training on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> in Normal, IL and Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> in Champaign. Please email [v.volunteers@immigrationproject.org](mailto:v.volunteers@immigrationproject.org) if you would like to attend. Keep a look out for future trainings in your area!

## USCIS Modernization

On October 1st, USCIS has begun using tablets during naturalization interviews for administering the English reading and writing tests. This initiative is in line with the USCIS's business modernization efforts. This expands tablet use in the naturalization process further than just signing or verifying parts of the application .

USCIS says that the tablets will be used for:

-The reading test, a sentence will appear on the tablet and the ISO will ask the applicant to read it.

-The writing test, several lines will appear on the tablet, replicating the appearance of a piece of blank paper. The ISO will read a sentence aloud and ask the applicant to write it on the tablet.

The Civics test will still be administered verbally in person.

Source: USCIS

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## DACA Update

One of the Trump Administrations objectives since getting in to office has been to stop Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Ever since the first executive order in September 2017, the legal battle has been fierce with many states bringing cases to stop the administrative relief. The Trump Administration has now declared they want the 9<sup>th</sup> United States Circuit Court of Appeals to rule on the Obama-era program by October 31<sup>st</sup>. If they do not rule on it before then, the Administration will call upon the Supreme Court of the United States to make a ruling. "The district court's injunction has now been in place for more than nine months and, unless either this court or the Supreme Court promptly intervenes, it could remain in force for at least another year, given the Supreme Court's argument calendar," DOJ attorney Mark Stern said in the letter to the clerk of the 9th Circuit, Molly Dwyer. In the past, the Trump Administration has tried to overstep the 9<sup>th</sup> circuit court of appeals and go straight to the Supreme Court. However, the highest court declined to hear the case first back in February of 2018.

The 9<sup>th</sup> United States Circuit Court of Appeals was the first appeals court to hear arguments from the Trump administration regarding the notion to end DACA back in May 2018. DACA has protected about 700,000 people who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children or came with families that overstayed visas. "The rescission of DACA is based on what appears to be an argument that DACA was illegal when it was enacted, but that's just wrong," Jeff Davidson, an attorney representing UC regents, said on a recent conference call with reporters. Trump has even contemplated breaking up the court as it is the most liberal of the appeals courts.

Sources: VOANews.com and PBS.org

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## Benefits Who?

The Trump Administration has proposed a “public charge” rule, published in the Federal Register on October 10, which could affect businesses and immigrants alike. Under this proposed rule, about 518,000 immigrants with temporary visas “seeking to extend their stay each year would be required to demonstrate that they haven’t received certain benefits, including Medicaid and food stamps, and weren’t likely to receive them in the future.” And if the Department of Homeland Security finds the answer insufficient, immigrants may be required to submit a “declaration of self sufficiency.”

The administration is adding hurdles to an already burdensome system. This proposed rule can block legal immigrants from gaining a green card if they have previously received governmental benefits. This could affect approximately 382,000 people seeking to become legal permanent residents subjecting the applicants to a public charge each year. In addition to Medicaid and food stamps, the benefit programs targeted in the proposal include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, prescription drug subsidies and housing assistance.

Source: Politico.com



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## Binary Choice

The Trump administration has proposed a new “binary choice” proposal in which immigrant parents have two choices moving forward in detention. They can either choose to stay as a family while awaiting proceedings in the system or allow their children to be released after 20 days while their parents stay behind bars awaiting their time in front of a judge. The administration has proposed starting a new pilot program to see how this new policy would play out. They are interested in seeing how the families would proceed given these options.

The reasoning for this proposal includes:

“1) Immigrant children can only be detained for 20 days under a 1997 court settlement, but officials don't want that to limit how long they can hold families.

2) Officials are trying to deter increasing numbers of families crossing the border.”

Along with this new proposal, officials have taken some initiatives to deter people from crossing the border. These initiatives include: placing advertising in Central America warning of the dangers of crossing the border and Mexico has been stopping people trying to enter from Guatemala.

This policy began its descent back in July with a judge signing off on a motion in August that outlined the proposal, however details are finally being released in which advocates have been fast to defend immigrants and their families. Detaining families is harder than anticipated, with space very limited in the Detention Centers. As the pilot program has not started, we are uncertain as to when this new policy will be set into motion.

Source: CNN.com

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## G-4 Visa Rule Change

Announced in early October, the Trump Administration will no longer be offering family diplomatic visas to same-sex domestic partners of foreign diplomats or employees of international organizations that work in the United States. This applies to those working for the United Nations, employees of the World Bank, those who work for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, among other groups of employees. Only married same-sex partners will be eligible for the G-4 visa. The applicants must present proof of valid marriage. A big issue is that many of the 193 countries that will be affected have not legalized same-sex marriage, then eliminating the ability to provide proof of a valid, legal marriage. State Department Officials have stated that "if necessary, legal workarounds could be discussed on a case-by-case basis for couples who are barred from marrying in their home countries."

Those already granted the visa will have to submit a proof of marriage by the end of the year to qualify for a renewal. If this is not possible, the memo said that "the partner will have to leave the United States within 30 days of the year-end deadline." It is estimated that this rule affects about 105 families, including 55 with international organizations and the rest at embassies and other diplomatic missions.

Source: The New York Times



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## Illinois Governor Debate

In a debate on October 9<sup>th</sup>, current Governor Bruce Rauner and the democratic candidate JB Pritzker clashed over immigrant's influence in Chicago. On the one hand, Governor Rauner alleged that undocumented immigrants play a factor in the city's crime problem and add to the unemployment rate because they take away jobs from American and Chicago citizens. However, Rauner has signed on laws that have expanded immigration, abortion, and transgender rights. Rauner said that he signed "legislation preventing law enforcement from stopping someone solely on their immigration status only because it was backed by law enforcement." On the other side, JB Pritzker believes that immigrants contribute to the Illinois economy. He believes that we should stand up for the immigrants in our states, to protect them because the Trump administration is not doing so.

Source: The Pantagraph



JB Pritzker

Bruce Rauner

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## Know Your Rights: What To Do If Questioned About Your Immigration Status

Your Rights	You have the right to remain silent. You do not have to answer questions about where you were born, whether you're a U.S. citizen, or how you entered the country. (Separate rules apply at international borders and airports, and for individuals on certain nonimmigrant visas, including
	If you're not a U.S. citizen and an immigration agent requests your immigration papers, you must show them. If you're over 18, carry your immigration documents with you at all times. If you don't have immigration papers, say you want to
	Do not lie about your citizenship status or provide fake documents.
If you are stopped in your car...	Stop the car in a safe place as quickly as possible. Turn off the car, turn on the internal light, open the window part way, and
	Upon request, show police your driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance
	If an officer or immigration agent asks to search your car, you can refuse. But if police believe your car contains evidence of a crime, they can search it without your con-
	Both drivers and passengers have the right to remain silent. If you're a passenger, you can ask if you're free to leave. If yes, silent-

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## Opportunities to Help

### *Normal*

Interested in updated Community Engagement Training? We will be hosting training on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> for those who volunteer to help at the clinic!

Help attorney explain contract and document checklist to potential clients on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>

\*Might\* need a Spanish Interpreter for monthly clinic on November 8th, we will let y'all know as the date gets closer

### *Champaign*

Help attorney explain contract and document checklist to potential clients on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

Interested in updated Community Engagement Training? We will be hosting training on Friday, December 7th for those who volunteer to help at the clinic!

### *Springfield*

Spanish interpreter needed for our monthly clinic on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

### *Carbondale*

\*Might\* need a Spanish Interpreter for monthly clinic on November 29th-30th, we will let y'all know as the date gets closer

### *Peoria- URGENT!*

Native Spanish Speaker preferred to help families in your area! Help finding an interpreter for psychological services and medical services for the following families:

- ♦ One family seeking psychological evaluation for 3 family members as well as a medical exam for one family member
- ♦ One family seeking mental health services to help them cope with what happened and to provide an evaluation from a therapist

For more information regarding this opportunity to help, please email [v.volunteers@immigrationprojet.org](mailto:v.volunteers@immigrationprojet.org)