

October 31, 2019 (Submitted Via Email)

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*National Advocates for Asian
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Secretary Mike Pompeo
United States Department of State
2201 C St NW, Washington, DC 20520

Director Mick Mulvaney
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th St NW, Washington, DC 20503

Dear Secretary Pompeo and Director Mulvaney,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Department of State's Notice of Information Collection Under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Emergency Review: Immigrant Health Insurance Coverage regarding Form DS-5541. We write out of deep concern and opposition to both the request for emergency review and on the underlying proposal.

Background and Expertise of APIAHF

The Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) is the nation's leading health policy organization working to advance the health and well-being of over 20 million Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (AA and NHPI) across the U.S. and territories. APIAHF works to improve access to and the quality of care for communities who are predominately immigrant, many of whom are limited English proficient, and may be new to the U.S. health care system or unfamiliar with private or public coverage. We have longstanding relationships with over 150 community based organizations in 32 states, to whom we provide capacity building, advocacy and technical assistance. As such, we have a strong understanding of the needs and barriers in immigrant communities and the impact changes in immigration and public assistance policy would have on them.

Background and Expertise of APIAHF

For over 32 years, APIAHF has worked extensively on both the issues of immigration and health; areas of policy that this proposed rule would upend. Through research, analysis and community partnerships, these issues are the core of our expertise. APIAHF and our partners have consistently advocated for the importance of access to health care and other public assistance for all families, regardless of their citizenship status. We know from experience that access to quality health care, not burdened by obstacles like finances, means families can thrive and contribute to their communities. At the same time, we are reminded that our country has a deep history of racial discrimination that has contributed to health disparities among communities of color, including AA and NHPs.

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