



**Mayor Lee Brand**

June 28, 2019

United States Department of Housing & Urban Development  
J. Paul Compton, Jr., Esq.  
Regulations Division, Office of General Counsel  
451 7th Street, SW, Room 10276  
Washington, DC 20410-0500

Re: Proposed Rule on Mixed Families

Dear Mr. Compton,

As Mayor of the City of Fresno, California, I am registering my strong opposition to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) re-interpretation of Section 214 of the 1980 Housing and Community Development Act, which would make significant changes to the treatment of families with mixed immigration status. As explained below, this proposed revision to the rule could cause approximately 1,400 children in the greater Fresno community to lose housing assistance.

We all share the concern that millions of families are struggling to find safe, quality and affordable housing. However, these proposed changes are unnecessary and will not reduce the number of families in need of housing assistance. In reality, revoking housing assistance, especially on such a large scale, would worsen the crisis in homelessness we are facing in our City and throughout California.

Current law already ensures that ineligible immigrants do not receive housing assistance. Under these proposed HUD requirements, mixed-status families would be forced to choose between keeping their family together or lose their housing. Children who are eligible to receive assistance would be displaced from their homes if their parent cannot prove eligible status. According to our analysis, 1,400 children who are U.S. citizens could be terminated from housing assistance in Fresno County alone. Children are shaped by their environment, and we believe it is in our communities' best interest to ensure they have a safe, quality home to grow up in.

I urge HUD to not implement these harmful changes, and work with Congress to make significant new investments into housing programs and ensure increased access to quality housing for all of our families.

Sincerely,

Lee Brand  
Mayor, City of Fresno