



Virginia Garcia Memorial
HEALTH CENTER

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June 7, 2019

Office of the General Counsel
Rules Docket Clerk
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 Seventh Street SW, Room 10276
Washington, DC 20410-0001.

Re: Docket No. FR-6124-P-01. RIN: 2501-AD89. Document Number: 2019-09566

Dear Secretary Carson,

We write to you as patients, staff, board members, donors and supporters of Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center – the largest federally qualified health center serving Washington and Yamhill counties in the state of Oregon. Last year Virginia Garcia served over 48,000 patients facing barriers to health care. We see these patients as our neighbors, our children's classmates, our co-workers, our community leaders and more.

As an organization, we are committed to addressing the social determinants of health – the aspects of life that medicine cannot treat alone. Access to housing is a significant social determinant of health; simply put, one cannot address any health concern if one does not have a roof over their head.

We strongly oppose proposed changes to the "Housing and Community Development Act of 1980: Verification of Eligible Status." Proposed changes that tear families apart and evict children is not a solution. Families need stable housing and a support system to stay healthy.

Immigrant families contribute to the nation's economy and social fabric – and both of these are impossible without a permanent place to live. HUD's mission is to provide affordable housing opportunities to those in need – documentation status should be irrelevant. Keep families together, keep our communities thriving, do not proceed with these proposed changes.

Sincerely,

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Cynthia Chavez
Licci Jaimes

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