What we do or fail to do: a message from our CEO, Raymon Cancino

This administration is attacking the very foundation of our moral fortitude by asking us to go against our shared values of seeking to nurture, support and ensure that every person has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

The changes to the public charge policy seek to penalize tax paying working families while systematically criminalizing and further traumatizing people seeking asylum and sanctuary, evident from the horrific treatment of families enduring separation and the incarceration of children. Now, to add further distress, this current proposed policy change is forcing families to choose between **future citizenship or hunger**.

Let us not be blind — history is repeating itself before our eyes. What we do or fail to do will be our legacy. We have seen the long lasting damage that apathy has caused in our world, and we should ensure that history does not continue to repeat itself. **That is why we must act**. Please take a moment and share with your congressional leaders how this will affect our communities. We must not let policies that seek to limit access to food and medical care be used as weapons in a debate about immigration, and as a way to punish tax paying working parents who are doing what every American parent would do to ensure their children are healthy, fed and safe. No person should have to choose between food, shelter, or emergency healthcare or their path to citizenship.

That is why Community Bridges, the largest human services agency in Santa Cruz County, is stating "**enough**." We will continue to protect families and individuals impacted by the proposed policy change, and we will advocate for all people who would be disenfranchised by it. Our agency will seek to continue to serve all who enter our offices regardless of immigration status, providing the hope and dignity of opportunity today and in the future.

In community,

Raymon Cancino
Chief Executive Officer, Community Bridges

#Basta #Enough #Protectfamilies