



I submit this comment to oppose the above-referenced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), which would eviscerate the ability of countless men, women and children to obtain asylum in the United States. **[As a physician who works with immigrants, many of whom have been granted asylum]**, I see first hand how critical the ability to find safe refuge is for their physical and mental health. I fear what will happen if new asylum seekers are not given similar opportunities - this is a matter of life and death. The United States has a long history of protecting those escaping danger, yet the NPRM seeks to target the most vulnerable individuals fleeing to the U.S. in search of safety. The rule imposes new barriers at every stage of the process that will be impossible to meet for the vast majority of asylum applicants, resulting in scores more asylum seekers being returned to harm. This regulation attempts to completely dismantle nearly every aspect of our asylum laws and seeks to eliminate critical pathways to humanitarian relief that our laws were designed to protect. The rule strikes at the very heart of our historic commitment to providing safe haven to people fleeing persecution and calls into question our integrity as a country. Every human being deserves their day in court. I strongly oppose the above-referenced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM).