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Congressman Jimmy Panetta speaks at Watsonville press conference on public charge proposals

WHAT: A press conference addressing the Department of Homeland Security's proposed changes to federal public charge inadmissibility (INA section 212(a)(4)). The conference is open to the general public and representatives of the media.

WHO: Speakers will include Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Community Bridges Chief Executive Officer Raymon Cancino, a member of Watsonville City Council and other elected officials.

Hosted by Community Bridges, a local human services nonprofit serving children, families, and seniors. Community Bridges provides essential services to the immigrant community.

Interviews are available in English and Spanish with Community Bridges CEO Raymon Cancino. Visuals include shots of attendees including elected officials, law enforcement officers and other local nonprofit leaders.

WHEN: Thursday Oct. 11, 2018, 1-2pm

WHERE: Community Bridges Plaza, 519 Main Street, Watsonville, CA 95076

WHY: On Oct. 10, the Trump administration will place proposed changes to public charge policy on the federal register, starting the 60-day clock for public comment. Public charge is an element of immigration law that can affect an immigrant's legal status based on their use of public benefits. If approved, proposed changes to the public charge policy would expand the list of programs and services that are considered during immigration proceedings.

In light of the apprehension and fear that these proposed changes have brought upon local immigrant communities, Community Bridges seeks to reassure clients that services provided by the agency will not be impacted. For any immigrants who will be impacted, Community Bridges and other partner organizations seek to communicate their support and solidarity, and to let immigrant families know that there is time to act.

ABOUT COMMUNITY BRIDGES: Community Bridges envisions a thriving community where every person has the opportunity to unleash their full potential. The Community Bridges

family of ten programs delivers essential services, provides equitable access to resources, and advocates for health and dignity across every stage of life. These programs include Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County; Elderday Adult Day Health Care; Lift Line; Child Development Division; Child & Adult Care Food Program; Women, Infants and Children (WIC); La Manzana Community Resources; Live Oak Community Resources; Nueva Vista Community Resources; and Mountain Community Resources. To learn more, please visit communitybridges.org.