Title: Immigration

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Problem to be addressed:
NAD to identify and address systemic barriers impacting immigrants and refugees, including reversing the public charge rule that penalizes people with disabilities who need services, and strongly opposing containment, deportations, and denaturalization.

Proposed Solution:
NAD to continue to advocate to Congress and federal agencies about communication access and education issues that face immigrants and refugees with disabilities - particularly those who are Deaf, DeafBlind, Late Deafened, and Hard of Hearing.

Rationale:
The federal government is changing the rules that approve asylum and entry into the United States by individuals from other countries. It is imperative that those in charge of making the rules understand the unique situation faced by many Deaf, DeafBlind, Late Deafened, and Hard of Hearing immigrants and refugees in their home country. And if the immigrant or refugee is held in confinement, the federal government must provide communication access services to these individuals. The communication access must be made available for any and all hearings regarding deportation and denaturalization.

Fiscal Impact:
1. NAD staff time would be significant.
2. Committee/Task Force meetings could be held via ZOOM to reduce travel expense
3. NAD may call upon individuals to testify before Congress and/or a federal agency

NAD Board/HQ Response:
The NAD has engaged with other organizations doing work on this issue, and is in support of this proposal.