

## ALIENATED BY FEDS

### EMIGRES RALLY, RIP AID CURBS

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**Byline:** By JULIA GORIN Daily News Writer

### **Body**

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WASHINGTON Some 6,000 immigrants marched in the nation's capital yesterday to protest new welfare restrictions, charging that they unfairly target newcomers to this country.

The changes being phased in this year will mandate, in most cases, that immigrants become citizens to receive or continue receiving Supplemental Security Income benefits and food stamps.

Protesters said many immigrants would find learning English to pass a citizenship exam an insurmountable obstacle. They called for allowing immigrants to take the exam in their native language.

The demonstration drew immigrants from across the country, including many New Yorkers. Among them was Isaac Zeyfman, 76, of Brighton Beach, Brooklyn.

Zeyfman, who came to the U.S. from Ukraine in 1994, survived five bullet wounds as a soldier in World War II. He worries that his difficulty in learning English will prevent him from becoming an American citizen.

"If I don't pass the exam, I will be cut off. That's a tragedy for me," he said.

"I study English every day," he added in broken English before lapsing into Russian, "but you can see it's not really sticking."

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-Manhattan) said immigrants like Zeyfman "believed in the American promise of freedom and opportunity and equality, and now they find themselves discriminated against."

Dan Stein, executive director of the Federation for American Immigrant Reform, said the march was "eroding the public's already eroded views on the value of immigration. What is the purpose, if it produces a steady stream of immigrants clamoring for benefits?"

### **Graphic**

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HARRY HAMBURG DAILY NEWS A **RALLY** FOR THE AGES: Aliza Abramowitz, 3, shows her fervor for the U.S. during **rally** in Washington to protest regulations on **federal aid** to immigrants. Below, former Soviet soldiers and others state their case.

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## Classification

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**Person:** JERROLD NADLER (50%)

**Geographic:** NEW YORK, NY, USA (88%); NEW YORK, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (94%); UKRAINE (58%)

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