

From: mail.relay@mailmanager.net [mailto:mail.relay@mailmanager.net] **On Behalf Of** Sean Sanford

Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2007 9:40 PM

To: Emilio Gonzalez

Subject: Don't raise the cost of citizenship! Docket# USCIS-2006-0044

Sean Sanford
2518 Alkire Street
Golden, CO 80401-2126

March 29, 2007

Emilio Gonzalez
USCIS Director

Dear Emilio Gonzalez:

Dear President Bush, Senators Allard and Salazar, and Others To Whom It May Concern:

I hope that you are well today. I know that you are very busy, so I appreciate your taking the time to read and consider my thoughts on an issue important to many in our country.

I implore you, please, do not allow the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services to implement its planned policy, to drastically increase costs and fees to those applying for citizenship. I find it surprising and somewhat questionable that aspiring citizens themselves are charged for applying in the first place, and inexcusable for the burden to be increased on them in this regard.

Immigrants, especially aspiring citizens, should be treated fairly and in fact as equally as possible by the government and under the law. Attaining citizenship should not be made harder, especially financially. If anything, the path to citizenship should be streamlined and opened more broadly and equitably to many thousands of decent, hard-working, and above all human individuals and families seeking a better life and participation in the civic life of the United States. In the long term, facilitating the path to legal immigration and citizenship is ultimately just and will only further benefit and enrich all of us as denizens, regardless of our being immigrants or native-born, citizens or foreign nationals, even legal or illegal.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services plans to raise the costs of applying for American citizenship beyond the reach of many recent immigrants.

During the past 12 years, the application costs have risen 400 percent. USCIS has proposed raising the cost of a green card from \$325 to \$905, a citizenship application from \$330 to \$595 and fingerprinting from \$70 to \$80.

USCIS is one of the few government agencies that operates primarily on user fees, yet it plans to put an additional burden on people already working as hard as possible to become lawful U.S. citizens. Naturalization for a family of four would rise to \$2,430.

Congress should appropriate the funds necessary to allow thousands of hard-working immigrants to gain citizenship at a cost they can afford and USCIS should absolutely not enact these dramatic increases.

Please give full consideration to these facts, and to the moral principles implied in facilitating the path to legal immigration and citizenship for thousands, rather than imposing further burdens on them. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sean Sanford

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