March 29th, 2007

Dr. Emilio Gonzalez Director, US Citizenship and Immigration Services 20 Massachusetts Avenue NW Washington DC 20536

Director, Regulatory Management Division US Citizenship and Immigration Services Department of Homeland Security 111 Massachusetts Ave. NW, 3rd floor Washington DC 20529

OSComments@dhs.gov

Dear Dr. Gonzalez:

As Immigrants from India, we are writing to oppose the proposed increase of the naturalization fee as well as other immigration fees (DHS Docket # USCIS-2006-0044) which will prevent many legal immigrants from achieving the American Dream of U.S. citizenship.

We understand that N400 application fee could increase in 2007 to as much as \$800, double the current total cost of \$400. Even more startling is the proposed cost of filing for adjustment of status (getting a green card), which for many immigrants is the first step on the road leading to US citizenship. The cost to apply for a green card (including fingerprinting fees) has risen from \$130 in 1998 to \$400 today. Under the proposed rule, the price will rise to \$985. In other words, it will cost nearly \$1,000 for an immigrant to get a green card and start the countdown to citizenship. A minimum-wage immigrant worker would need to save a full month's pay to afford the proposed fee. These fee increases will make citizenship unattainable for many lower-income, less-educated immigrants--immigrants who can currently become citizens and who make outstanding Americans.

You have publicly stated your position that U.S. citizenship is "priceless," and that immigrants would be willing to pay whatever the cost. But our experience is that many low-income immigrants, particularly immigrant families with multiple members who are eligible to naturalize, already have great difficulty paying for their applications, and already put off applying until they can afford the cost. The majority of our clients in King County are low-income and, when it comes to naturalization, already rely on services like the fee waiver in order to become citizens. A further major increase will only further put citizenship out of reach for thousands of immigrants who would love to become Americans.

Our government should welcome these hardworking, patriotic immigrants who want to be part of our nation. Democratic inclusion rather than systematic exclusion should be the touchstone of our Democracy. We should not be erecting new barriers to keep these would-be new Americans out of our community, especially through unaccountable administrative action. We strongly urge you not to raise these further barriers, and to instead keep the door to the American Dream open to those who want to pursue it. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Please see the attached list, the names, phones and signatures of the protesters



## ੧ਓ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ



## GURUDWARA SINGH SABHA OF WASHINGTON

5212 Talbot Road Renton, WA 98055 Telephone: (425) 226-2277

ਮਾਰਚ 25, 2007

ਅਸੀ ਵਧਾਈ ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਨਾਗਰਿੱਕਤ ਅਰਜੀ ਦੀ ਫੀਸ ਦਾ ਵਿਰੋਧ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਜੋ ਕਿ 2007 ਵਿਚ

\$ 800 ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਸੰਭਾਵਨਾ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ । ਫੀਸ ਵਧਣ ਨਾਲ ਘੱਟ ਕਮਾਈ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲੇ, ਘੱਟ ਪੜੇ ਲਿੱਖੇ ਇਮੀਗਰੈਟਾਂ ਲਈ ਅਮਰੀਕਨ ਨਾਗਕਿਤਾ ਲੈਣੀ ਅਸੰਭਵ ਹੋ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ ।

1998 ਵਿਚ ਅਮਰੀਕਨ ਨਾਗਕਿਤਾ ਦੀ ਅਰਜੀ ਦੀ ਫੀਸ ਸਿਰਫ \$95 ਸੀ। ਹੁਣ ਦੀ ਫੀਸ \$400 ਹੈ ਜੋ ਕਿ 2007 ਵਿਚ \$ 800 ਹੋਣ ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ।

ਤੁਸੀ ਬਿਆਨ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਅਮਰੀਕਨ ਨਾਗਰਿਕਾ ਬੇਮੁਲੀ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਇਮੀਗਰੈਟਸ ਇਸਦੀ ਕੁਝ ਵੀ ਕੀਮਤ ਦੇਣਗੇ। ਪਰ ਸਾਡਾ ਤਜਰਬਾ ਦੱਸਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਪਰਵਾਸੀ ਪਰੀਵਾਰ ਜਿੰਨਾ ਦੇ ਮੈਬਰ ਜਿਆਦਾ ਹਨ ਜਾਂ ਘਟ ਆਮਦਨ ਹੈ,ਜੋ ਨਾਗਕਿਤਾ ਦੇ ਕਾਬਲ ਹਨ ਪਰ ਫੀਸ ਦੇਣ ਦੀ ਦਿੱਕਤ ਹੈ,ਉਹ ਆਪਣੀ ਨਾਗਰਿੱਕਤਾ ਹਾਸਿਲ ਕਰਨ ਵਿਚ ਦੇਰ ਕਰਨਗੇ ਜਦੋਂ ਤਕ ਉਹ ਫਿਸ ਦੇਣ ਦੇ ਯੋਗ ਹੋ ਜਾਣ।

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