
From: Cary Smith [mailto:crmexico2@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2007 2:37 PM
To: OSComments
Subject: disgusted by raise in USCIS fees.

We dreamed of being able to go back to Mexico on vacation to visit family as we established our lives in the United States. We were sure to do everything legally and took care in hiring a lawyer and spending all of our money on immigration and lawyer fees.

We have now been waiting since 2005 for permanent residency. We wait anxiously knowing that as we are not allowed to reenter the US after leaving, we are unable to see our family.

We are legal aliens. We have followed all the rules. We have paid all the money. We have clean records.

Yet, somehow, it is taking this long to do a name check. In the meantime, we have no way to know what is going on and check the mailbox daily praying that the Green Card has arrived. We are stuck, waiting, with no one to help and fees never stopping.

As our papers take longer and longer to go through, we pay more and more fees for renewals, not to mention having to pay our lawyer for forms that need to be done because they are often too complicated to fill out on our own and we are scared we will miss something on the form and have it be delayed.

The expense of immigration has been very high emotionally and mentally. We are in a state of anticipation with difficulty being able to move on with our lives because our lives now revolve around this card that we have been waiting for since 2005.

We have done everything legally.

It is not fair that those of us who work hard to go through the citizenship process have to wait so long without any answers.

I speak on behalf of all the people who are working hard to get by and praying that their families in far away countries survive long enough that they may return home for a visit and a hug. I speak on behalf of the people who work legally and try to do everything the right way.

We should not be punished for this by paying even higher fees. As it is, we are in a state of panic about the fees that come pouring in as our case sits pending on someone's desk.

If the USCIS raises their fees 66%, I don't know how we will pay them. I will, however, hold them accountable for making the process then 66% more efficient. That would only seem fair for those of us left so long waiting.

Right now, the USCIS seems to be taking their time as hard working, law abiding people await. It must be a nice paycheck when you can charge a person to renew with large fees yet not do anything on their case.

We at least have the right to know what is going on. We have the right to receive the services and papers we have paid for when we have no record and are doing the immigration process the legal way. If you raise the USCIS fees, I will be expecting much faster services.

Perhaps you could consider not making people pay fees to renew when their cases sit waiting on someone's desk. Some of us are working several jobs to pay for this.

This increase in fees will be detrimental to hard working, law abiding and struggling people in this country who are going through the immigration process. The process alone is so complicated that most people already have to pay for a lawyer which is incredibly expensive, plus all the fees and renewals on top of this.

It is one thing to charge and give results. It is another thing to charge and leave someone's case pending for years when they have no charges against them and no record.

We are human beings. We are working to get by. We are immigrants here in the United States legally. Help us.

-I expect the services I have paid for in a timely fashion... 2 years is too long without anyone even bothering to explain. Even our Senator's office calls the FBI, but no one tells us anything but that the case is pending. We have spent THOUSANDS.

