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**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2007 7:19 PM

**To:** Emilio Gonzalez

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

Judy Maclauchlan  
128 S. Alexander St.  
New Orleans, LA 70119-5905

March 29, 2007

Emilio Gonzalez  
USCIS Director

Dear Emilio Gonzalez:

We, as a nation of mostly immigrants, should be ashamed to close our borders to those now seeking the advantages we and our foreparents have enjoyed. Further shamed by our apparent xenophobia.

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.

Sincerely,

Judy Maclauchlan  
504 2518318

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