



ACORN

Dr. Emilio Gonzalez
Director, USCIS
Department of Homeland Security
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20529

Dear Dr. Gonzalez,

On behalf of San Diego ACORN members, I write to express my concern with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) proposed rule that would significantly raise fees for naturalization and immigration applications.

As a nation of immigrants, we should be making it easier for qualifying immigrants to become Americans, not harder – especially if they have played by the rules and have taken all the proper steps needed to become lawful US citizens. The fee increases proposed by USCIS are prohibitive for many working families. Under the current proposal, an application for permanent residency would increase from \$325 to \$905 – nearly a 300% increase. In addition, a citizenship application (N-400) would virtually double to \$595, and fees for fingerprinting would increase 14%. For example, a family of four would have to pay approximately \$2,430 in application and processing fees to become legal citizens of the U.S. This is in addition to the English and civics classes many immigrants need to take in order to prepare for their naturalization exams.

We should not discourage hard-working immigrants from completing the naturalization process. Rather than raising naturalization fees for the sixth time since 1988, we urge you to call on Congress to provide sufficient appropriated funds to ensure that citizenship remains an attainable goal for current and future immigrants. With the help of appropriated funds, USCIS can make the proper changes needed to bring immigration services into the modern era without preventing eligible immigrants from obtaining the American dream.

If you have any comments or questions please contact

(619) 262-8291

Sincerely,

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Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now

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