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**Sent:** Monday, March 05, 2007 11:20 PM

**To:** USCIS Comments

**Subject:** DHS Docket No. USCIS-2006-0044 - USCIS Fee Increase Comment

Tricia Wempe  
410 Ouachita St.  
Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001

March 5, 2007

USCIS Comments

Dear USCIS Comments:

I am writing to you as an international educator in opposition to the February 1, 2007, proposed rule "Adjustment of the Immigration and Naturalization Benefit Application and Petition Fee Schedule." The proposed fee increases are so exorbitant they will act as a disincentive for international students and scholars to study and work in the United States. USCIS must reconsider the role of appropriated funds to meet the administrative needs of the agency. I ask that fees be reduced to the actual cost of processing the application or petition.

As an F-1 approved school the main fee that needs to be addressed is the following:

- The near-doubling of the I-765 fee for international students in F status to apply for work authorization for Optional Practical Training, from \$180 to \$340. In addition, if a student has economic hardship and needs to apply for the EAD card via the I-765, the higher costs associated to simply apply certainly defeats the opportunity to try to get themselves out of economic hardship.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Tricia Wempe  
870.245.5224

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