

Dear USCIS:

On behalf of the Maryland Vietnamese Mutual Association, I oppose the proposed application fee increases because of the deeply negative impact it will have on our communities. The increased fees are enormous averaging about 66% whereas an individual's salary increase is significantly less, averaging from 5-10%.

Permanency and citizenship are essential processes to full integration and participation in American society. Many low-income families simply cannot afford such high fees and will be forced to choose between the immediate needs of providing for their family or paying for application fees to achieve their dreams of becoming permanent residents and citizens. Creating additional barriers of increasing fees will not only discourage many from applying but essentially deny many refugees and immigrants access to integrating and achieving the American Dream. This country is strengthened by the contributions of refugees and immigrants of all backgrounds and it is in our nation's best interest that we ensure that the path to citizenship is accessible for all eligible immigrants.

I urge USCIS to find alternative solutions to offset of the administrative costs of USCIS, such as getting the U.S. Government to allocate funding for your valuable work.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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"Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, champagne in one hand--strawberries in other--body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming WOO HOO--What a ride!"

Cuộc đời KHÔNG NÊN là một chuyến du hành đi từ lúc sinh ra cho đến lúc chết một cách an toàn, với thân thể ta đến lúc ấy vẫn còn khả ái và nguyên vẹn, nhưng ngược lại trong cuộc đời cần phải có những lúc chệch ngã, trong khi ta cầm cốc rượu sâm-banh một tay, cầm một trái cây (thức ăn) tay kia để hưởng thụ, và sử dụng đầy đủ thân thể của ta, sống cho hết mình, tới độ hoàn toàn mệt mỏi, để cuối cùng ta có thể kêu to: "A HA" -- chuyến du hành sao mà tốt đẹp thế!