

From: Caridad Merino [mailto:caridad_gal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2007 3:11 PM
To: OSComments
Subject: USCIS-2006-0044, SAY NO TO A FEE INCREASE!.

Dear Sir:

I am hereby making use of my First Amendment Right, "Freedom of Expression" so here it goes:

It is with great sadness that I see how millions of people are being picked on for the wrong reasons. This increase would only hurt the poor people that work so hard to bring their relatives to the US through legal means. Not every body has the \$905 to spend on a I-485 or the \$595 to spend on Naturalization Applications. You advocate for legal immigration, people have to endure being apart from their loves for many years before there is a visa available for their relatives to immigrate to the US, unless the Petitioners are US Citizens, and yet, you penalize them even more for wanting to do the right thing.

I still remember when I came from Cuba as a 16 year old adolescent, my family was so poor we had to wear used clothes. We had to save all the money we had to pay for immigration forms and I know that there are millions of hard working people in that same situation today. Why does not the Government reduce their military budget instead, or better yet, use part of that budget to cover the immigration budget that you so much need.

You say that this increase in fees will make immigration services more efficient. Is this a joke? Last time I went to an immigration conference during the conference we were told that the National Service Center would be improved. Have you ever tried talking to one of the "human recorders" they have posing as immigration customer service representatives, as they would literally repeat what they read from a one page script that they memorize without even thinking and at the end they do not know how to answer even the simplest of questions.

I think that people should be charged for other things, example: info pass appointments but not for an I-485 or N-400 Applications. You are basically making it impossible for people to eat, clothe themselves and pay immigration fees. You mean to tell me that people would have to stop paying their mortgage, their car insurance, their kid's school in order to obtain an immigration benefit. I am sure that if our founding fathers came to life and saw what your are trying to do they would turn over on their graves and die again.

I am at a lost for words, really.

Yours truly,

Caridad M. Merino