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March 6, 2007

Director, Regulatory Management Division
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
Department of Homeland Security
111 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, 3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20529

Reg.: **PROPOSED FEE INCREASES**

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is sent to express our concern over the proposed fee increases by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

As a long time Immigration Attorney and a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, I wish to express our strong opposition to the proposed fee increases. Our analysis and experience tell us that the recently proposed increases are excessive and will create yet another obstacle for individuals seeking to adjust their immigration status.

The proposed fee increases will place a very heavy burden on the backs of immigrants, many of whom cannot shoulder the excessive costs and will be forced to postpone their dreams of becoming American citizens or to remain separated from their families. The size of the proposed fee increases is particularly troubling at a time when the administration has indicated that it wants to help immigrants become citizens of the United States.

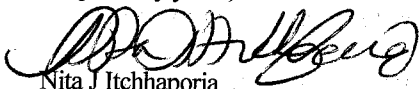
We urge USCIS to work with members of Congress to create an alternative and permanent funding stream that will support USCIS operations. At the same time, we will continue to urge Congressional leaders to fund immigration services and policies that benefit families. The administration has made the democratic inclusion of immigrants one of its most prominent public messages. Eliminating or decreasing the amount of the proposed fee increases would add credibility to these public statements and also support immigrants in their efforts to contribute to the nation's vibrancy and future.

The economic wall raised by the proposed fee structure will diminish many people's hope to become permanent residents or citizens or to be reunited with their family members. This increase will have a detrimental impact on the low-income and working class individuals and families.

We urge USCIS to adopt measures that do not restrict the opportunity of many families to become equal participants and contributors to the nation's social, cultural, political and economic future and to "do right" by removing restrictive and detrimental fee increases that will deny many immigrants the opportunity to work for and contribute to the nation's betterment.

Thank you for hearing our concerns. We look forward to your taking leadership on this critical matter.

Respectfully yours,



Nita J. Itchhaporia
Immigration Attorney
AILA Member

cc: Zoe Lofgren, (D-CA) Chair, U.S. House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security and International Law
Patrick Leahy, (D-VT) Chair, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee
Edward Kennedy, (D-MA) Chair, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee Sub-Committee on Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship
John Conyers, (D-MI) Chair, U.S. House Judiciary Committee