

Dear friends,

I write to express my concern regarding the proposed increase in fees for applications for citizenship.

While I certainly understand the need to fund the review process, the proposed fees strike me as short sighted. Living in the St. Paul-Minneapolis area of Minnesota I see first hand the tremendous economic development benefits immigrant and refugee communities bring to our Twin Cities. University Avenue and Lake Street-- central arteries of our cities have transformed from scary, dead, boarded up corridors to vibrant, successful commercial areas over the course of a little less than 10 years--primarily by immigrant entrepreneurial activity. Because the proposed fees are so out of line with what is affordable for these new Americans, I expect it will diminish the resources going into new business formation--resulting in reduced stability for families and communities and a diminution in the formation and growth of new businesses. Penny wise and pound foolish.

Sincere regards,
Katy Lowery