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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: PLEASE REPLY PLEASE COMMENT FOR REVIEW X URGENT Please Check: ) :xe<sup>H</sup> :эиоцд Company: Title: USCis pertment of Homeland Sc. Title: \_ Director Regulatory Management. Name: FROM: :OT Number of Pages (including cover sheet): \_ 1002/92/8 Date: **EVX COVER SHEET** transition from a struggling immigrant community to a successful and stable one community by providing free access to information and existing services to ensure its Sant La's mission is to empower, strengthen and stabilize South Florida's Haitian

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Haitian Neighborhood Center

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February 22, 2007

Director, Regulatory Management Division, USCIS
Department of Homeland Security
111 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor
Washington, DC 20529

DHS Docket Number: USCIS-2006-0044

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of community-based organizations serving Haitian and Haitian Americans living in Miami-Dade County, I am writing to express our serious concerns over the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) recent announcement that filing fees for the most frequently filed petitions and applications may increase by an average of 66%. What that means in actual terms is that the application for citizenship will jump from \$400 to \$595, the application for permanent residence will increase from \$325 to \$905 and the petition for a relative (I-130) will increase from \$335.

I must respectfully state that such a decision is elitist, undemocratic and clearly favors immigrants with the means to pay such steep fees. We work and serve hard working women who work extremely hard to take care of their families here and in Haiti while holding multiple minimum wage jobs. These are individuals, many of whom are taxbolding multiple minimum wage jobs. These are individuals, many of whom are taxbolding multiple minimum wage jobs. These are individuals, many of whom are taxbolding to living exceeds the average wage, the proposed fees, some as high as where the cost of living exceeds the average wage, the proposed fees, some as high as deleterious in elderly households where such fees will exceed monthly benefits earned by many elderly retirees, hoping to become US citizens.

Again, let me express our strong opposition to the proposed fee hike which is arbitrary, unconscionable and tantamount to price gouging by an agency with complete and total monopoly over the process. It reinforces the strongly held belief in our community that our work ethic and our reputation as hard and dependable workers will never be rewarded. I strongly urge the USCIS to offer user fees which remain reasonable, accessible to all hard working immigrants wishing to become citizens and equitable to accessible to all hard working immigrants wishing to become citizens and equitable to

US citizens wishing to be reunited with family members. I thank you for your

consideration in this matter.

With Warm Regards,