



**SELF-HELP
FOR THE
ELDERLY**

安老自助處

"Providing strength, hope and
empowerment for seniors since 1966"
www.selfhelpelderly.org
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February 7, 2007

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

RE: Docket No. USCIS 2006-0044

Dear Director,

I am writing on behalf of Self-Help for the Elderly and the 25,000 seniors whom we serve each year to express my opposition to the proposed fee increases relating to naturalization and immigration. In particular, I am concerned with the proposed increase to the N-400 filing fee. By increasing the fee to \$595, in addition to the \$80 biometric fee, the cost of applying to become a United States citizen will increase by 80%.

As I am sure you are aware, many immigrant and refugee seniors live on fixed or limited incomes that do not allow for much more than meeting their basic necessities. Even the current N-400 fee of \$330 is prohibitive to many of our seniors, who often must choose between paying rent, buying food, or purchasing medications. Although some of our clients choose to apply for a fee waiver, most do not since the waivers are difficult to have granted and many clients fear that a waiver will hinder their chances of becoming a citizen.

Self-Help for the Elderly recognizes the importance of assisting immigrant seniors to become naturalized citizens as it serves as a key entry point into full civic and political participation. As immigrants integrate into society, their investment in the health of our communities, businesses and infrastructure increase. By encouraging immigrants to naturalize, we invest in the future.

The proposed fee structure will make it difficult, if not impossible, for many seniors to become United States citizens and play a civic role in their new homes. Other seniors may sacrifice their health and well-being in order to pay the fees. On behalf of our immigrant communities, I ask that you reconsider the proposed fee increases.

Sincerely,


Anni Chung
CEO/President

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