

February 28, 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

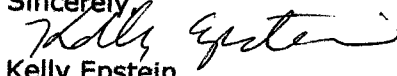
Dear Director,

Even as we continue to work for humane changes to the nation's immigration structure, U.S. laws and policies are creating obstacles that keep families apart and force many immigrants to postpone their dreams of becoming U.S. citizens. The newest hurdle: proposed fee increases by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

The proposed increases are beyond excessive—they're exorbitant. For example, the current fee to apply for permanent residency is \$325; USCIS proposes to raise this fee to \$905 (a 178 percent increase). The fee for naturalization ("citizenship") applications would increase from \$330 to \$595 (an 80 percent increase).

The proposed increases are exorbitant and unfair. I encourage USCIS to work with Congressional leaders to identify an alternative and permanent funding stream that supports USCIS operations.

Sincerely,


Kelly Epstein

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