

David Moseman  
1170 Cushing Cir. #222  
St. Paul, MN 55108-5019

March 21, 2007

Emilio Gonzalez  
USCIS Director

Dear Emilio Gonzalez:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services plans to raise the costs of applying for American citizenship beyond the reach of many recent immigrants.

During the past 12 years, the application costs have risen 400 percent. USCIS has proposed raising the cost of a green card from \$325 to \$905, a citizenship application from \$330 to \$595 and fingerprinting from \$70 to \$80.

USCIS is one of the few government agencies that operates primarily on user fees, yet it plans to put an additional burden on people already working as hard as possible to become lawful U.S. citizens. Naturalization for a family of four would rise to \$2,430. The economic barrier to legal participation in the US economy is too high. Any increase will increase the number of persons forced to work without documentation.

Congress should appropriate the funds necessary to allow thousands of hard-working immigrants to gain citizenship at a cost they can afford and USCIS should absolutely not enact these dramatic increases. If this requires a tax increase on the rest of us we can afford it much better than those seeking to live and work here legally in jobs the rest of us refuse to take. We are willing to pay someone else to perform these jobs, a tax increase to make them legal is part of the cost.

Good Health

David Moseman, Md  
651-349-4217

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