



MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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March 29, 2007

Emilio Gonzalez
Director, Regulatory Management Division
United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security
111 Massachusetts Ave., NW 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20529

RE: DHS Docket No. USCIS 2006-0044

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

We write on behalf of the 43 elected members of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus - Texas House of Representatives (MALC) to express our opposition to the proposed fee increases for starting the naturalization process.

It is our understanding that the United State Citizenship and Immigration Service USCIS) has proposed increases for filing the Form N-400 in the amount of \$265 and the biometrics fee would increase from \$70 to \$80. This proposed 69% fee hike is an unfair burden for hardworking newcomers who wish to become U.S. citizens and participate in everything that this nation has to offer.

At a time when divisive and bigoted rhetoric seem to focus on the misconception that immigrants do not want to become U.S. citizens, despite the actual numbers, we encourage you not to make this myth reality. Should these fee increases be implemented becoming a naturalized citizen will become cost prohibitive for our immigrant populations.

We are certain you heard of the recent study by the Pew Hispanic Center that the number of legal foreign-born residents seeking naturalization in the United States (U.S.) has risen by 52%. It is beneficial to our country, both economically and for national security purposes, that we continue this trend.

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Our opposition to these fee increases is grounded not only in our support of our Latino immigrant communities, but also in the belief that the U.S. is a direct beneficiary of their willingness to become naturalized citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our opposition.

Sincerely,



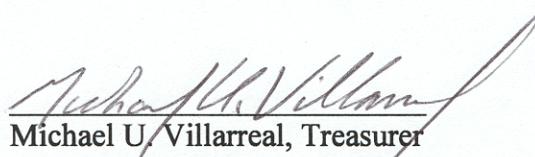
Pete P. Gallego, Chair



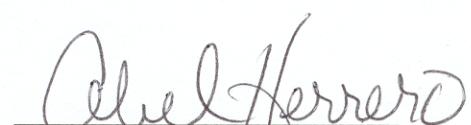
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Jessica Farrar, Secretary



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Abel Herrero, Legal Counsel