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Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2007 3:07 PM
To: Director, Regulatory Management Division
Subject: Fee concerns

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

Director, Regulatory Management Division:

I have sent a previous, lengthy message to your offices. Here's a much shorter one: as a practitioner who frequently does pro bono cases, and offers lengthy payment plans for fees of a few hundred dollars, I cannot imagine most of my clients will be able to come up with these new fees --especially when a family is involved. Remember, the STRIVE Act is already providing for significant fines and fees for those who are planning to adjust under it--estimated to be up to 12 million individuals. Even if they only paid the \$500 fee and nothing more that's an influx of an extra \$6 billion right there--plus all the extra fees they must pay to receive employment authorization, temporary cards, permanent cards, earned citizenship, etc. And they can in turn assist family members who will pay more money.

But by effectively building a wall of extraordinary fees, you are telling folks "you can get a benefit--if you have enough money." And some will simply choose, or be forced to choose, to remain with no status because they cannot afford to file. I have one young woman pregnant with her second child who can file for naturalization. She does not work, and her companion is undocumented and works when he can. She has tried, unsuccessfully, for nearly a year to raise your filing fee (I have not charged her anything for my time.) A higher fee will mean she will wait longer--and can cause a spiraling effect where the father of the children (who is only waiting for his companion's naturalization to marry) will ultimately be forced to leave the U.S., possibly abandoning his children and companion, because of a fee. That's a story the news media would love to hear. Must she choose between food for her babies and good medical care or a filing fee?

Please reconsider before raising these fees so extraordinarily high.

Sincerely,

Julia Osborne
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