

**April 2, 2007**

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

**RE: DHS Docket # USCIS-2006-0044**

**Proposed rule – Adjustment of the Immigration and Naturalization Benefit  
Application and Petition Fee Schedule**

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to strongly oppose the increase of immigration and naturalization fees that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) proposed on February 1, 2007. Every day immigrants and refugees already struggle to pay immigration fees. The steep increases proposed by USCIS would make it much more difficult to gain permanent resident status, reunite with family members, and become a U.S. citizen. USCIS should be helping immigrants become citizens, not making it harder.

I'm a junior in high school and for one of my English courses I am writing a research paper on immigration. I have learned so much about the current and past immigration policies. Much of the information has shocked and disgusted me. An example of this is a recent article in which someone has proposed that children born in the United States of foreign parents who are not yet documented should not be granted citizenship. It just seems so unjust to punish the child and the mother who is so clearly trying to create a better life for her newborn child. I believe that increasing the naturalization fees would make it impossible for many immigrants to make a better life for themselves, and above all their families. Because of this, I urge you to please, please avoid this steep increase.

USCIS claims that the fee increase is necessary to improve service, and USCIS definitely needs to improve service. While I applaud USCIS's efforts to improve service, I do not think that the entire cost should rest on immigrants who are already paying taxes, working hard, and struggling to pay high fees while receiving poor service.

Immigration and citizenship are public goods that benefit our entire country and that we as a nation should help pay for. Immigrants work hard, pay taxes, and help revitalize our communities. In becoming citizens, immigrants demonstrate their strong commitment to their new home country by learning English, gaining knowledge about American history and government, and swearing allegiance to the United States. We should be encouraging immigrants to become part of our community by gaining legal status and becoming citizens, not setting up barriers that block their path and keep them out.

For all these reasons, I strongly oppose the proposed fee increases and urge USCIS to reconsider this proposal, and to seek other sources of funding for its operations, rather than add more burdens on immigrants. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel E. Luscombe

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