



ACORN

Dr. Emilio Gonzalez
 Director, USCIS
 Department of Homeland Security
 20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20529

February 21, 2007

Dear Dr. Gonzalez,

Members of _____ ACORN are concerned with the fee increase the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is considering for processing naturalization and immigration applications.

Under the current proposal an application for permanent residency would increase from \$325 to \$905—nearly a 300% increase. In addition a citizenship application would virtually double to \$595 and fees for fingerprinting would increase 14%. Based on our estimates, in order for a family of four to become legal citizens of the United States, they would have to pay around \$2,430 in fees. This is in addition to the English and civics classes many immigrants need to take in order to prepare for their naturalization exams.

We should be making it easier for qualifying immigrants to become Americans, not harder. The people paying the fees have played by the rules and have taken all the proper steps needed to become lawful US citizens. We shouldn't be discouraging hard-working immigrants from completing the naturalization process. This fee is particularly worrisome to low-income families trying to make a better life for their children by coming to America.

Instead of naturalization fees being raised for the sixth time since 1988, we suggest that you call on Congress to supply sufficient appropriated funds to ensure that citizenship remains an attainable goal for current and future immigrants. With the help of appropriated funds, your Department can make the proper changes needed to bring immigration services into the modern era without preventing those who wish to obtain the American dream and participate in our country's economy and culture from doing so.

If you have any comments or questions please contact 713.699.2971

Sincerely, *Vicente Martinez*

Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now

National Office: 739 8th Street S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003 • 202-547-2500 FAX 202-546-2483



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Department of Homeland Security
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February 21, 2007

Dear Dr. Gonzalez,

On behalf of _____ ACORN members, I write to express my concern with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) proposed rule that would significantly raise fees for naturalization and immigration applications.

As a nation of immigrants, we should be making it easier for qualifying immigrants to become Americans, not harder – especially if they have played by the rules and have taken all the proper steps needed to become lawful US citizens. The fee increases proposed by USCIS are prohibitive for many working families. Under the current proposal, an application for permanent residency would increase from \$325 to \$905 – nearly a 300% increase. In addition, a citizenship application (N-400) would virtually double to \$595, and fees for fingerprinting would increase 14%. For example, a family of four would have to pay approximately \$2,430 in application and processing fees to become legal citizens of the U.S. This is in addition to the English and civics classes many immigrants need to take in order to prepare for their naturalization exams.

We should not discourage hard-working immigrants from completing the naturalization process. Rather than raising naturalization fees for the sixth time since 1988, we urge you to call on Congress to provide sufficient appropriated funds to ensure that citizenship remains an attainable goal for current and future immigrants. With the help of appropriated funds, USCIS can make the proper changes needed to bring immigration services into the modern era without preventing eligible immigrants from obtaining the American dream.

If you have any comments or questions please contact 832 782 0799

Sincerely, *Dora M. Hernandez*

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If you have any comments or questions please contact Sindy Rojas

Sincerely,

281.4.41.23-95

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If you have any comments or questions please contact

Martha Rubio
281-941-2398

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If you have any comments or questions please contact *Byron Edwards 602 man*

Sincerely,

832 4285967

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