

425 Maple Lane
Shoreview, MN 55126
March 17, 2007

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

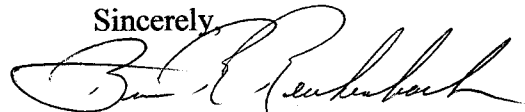
Dear Director:

I am writing regarding the proposed fee schedule that substantially raises the costs for immigrants filing applications for citizenship. Our family currently is helping financially a large Congolese refugee family achieve citizenship. We volunteer tutor children from several refugee families, and my wife teaches immigrants who are preparing for their interview. In addition, we assist with our church that sponsors several refugee families – from Liberia, Iran, and elsewhere. Because of this involvement, we have a close working knowledge of the struggles of these individuals as they adjust to life in the United States. All of the families we assist have the lowest level entry jobs, some only part time. Hence, it is extremely difficult for them, not only to make ends meet, but to begin the process of applying for citizenship. In fact, our church subsidizes the housing for two families, and we help out with another.

Because of the extreme economic hardships facing these families, the proposed fee increases will make it even more difficult for these people to apply for citizenship. Increasing various fees from a third to triple will have a devastating impact on many families, especially those with large members. With their current low wages, many will not have the resources to apply. In effect, the dramatic increases in fees will affect directly many of the most needy of those residing in our country, people who are at the same time inspired to become contributing members to our society.

We have invited these people to come to America and to join our society. At the same time making the process of becoming members so expensive defeats the message of welcome that was part of the initial invitation. I strongly urge you to **reject** the recommendations to increase the fees proposed by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bruce R. Reichenbach", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Bruce R. Reichenbach