

Dr. Emilio Gonzalez
Director, USCIS
DHS Docket No. USCIS-2006-0044
Fax # 1-866-466-5370

March 30, 2007

Dear Dr. Gonzalez,

Raising the price for citizenship and processing is ridiculous when we are having such a problem already with hundreds of thousand trapped in paperwork that doesn't seem to get processed! I've seen the number of boxes containing applications and it is truly time to get a policy passed that helps these hardworkers remain here where we need them. Interesting to me is the fact that Bush can offer a three year quick ride to citizenship if you risk your life in war, yet the rest of the working immigrants have to wait and wait. Shame on him. During the Viet Nam war my fiancée was drafted and was not a citizen. Why can they give up their lives for us yet we can't offer them a clear, clean and efficient path to citizenship?

I write to express my opposition to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) proposed rule that would significantly raise fees for naturalization and immigration applications. Please eliminate these increases.

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

Sincerely,

Irene Chavez
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