

From: mail.relay@mailmanager.net [mailto:mail.relay@mailmanager.net] **On Behalf Of** Kathleen Hausenbauer
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2007 7:57 PM
To: Emilio Gonzalez
Subject: Please oppose USCIS fee increases and support comp immigration reform!

Kathleen Hausenbauer
2615 East 24th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55406-1210

March 29, 2007

Emilio Gonzalez
USCIS Director

Dear Emilio Gonzalez:

My name is Katie Hausenbauer, and I am a resident of the 5th Congressional District in Minneapolis, MN. I am writing to ask for your support on two measures that are extremely important to me. I would appreciate 1) your opposition to a fee increase by the USCIS for citizenship applications and 2) your support of current efforts at passing comprehensive immigration reform.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services plans to raise the costs of applying for American citizenship beyond the reach of many recent immigrants.

During the past 12 years, the application costs have risen 400 percent. USCIS has proposed raising the cost of a green card from \$325 to \$905, a citizenship application from \$330 to \$595 and fingerprinting from \$70 to \$80.

USCIS is one of the few government agencies that operates primarily on user fees, yet it plans to put an additional burden on people already working as hard as possible to become lawful U.S. citizens. Naturalization for a family of four would rise to \$2,430.

Congress should appropriate the funds necessary to allow thousands of hard-working immigrants to gain citizenship at a cost they can afford and USCIS should absolutely not enact these dramatic increases. I hope you will join in efforts to oppose this fee increase.

Also, would ask you to support the efforts of Representatives Gutierrez and Obama to enact a comprehensive immigration reform plan. This plan would allow the millions of hard-working undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States to work legally, support their families, and apply for U.S. citizenship.

However, one important change is needed in order to make the currently proposed legislation more workable. I hope you will agree that the

provision that forces immigrants to return to their home country in order to apply for citizenship will discourage immigrants from applying for a program that would otherwise do a great deal to level the playing field between American and immigrant workers and would decrease the number of people working in the "underground economy."

Thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Hausenbauer

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