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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

COMMITTEES:
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
EDUCATION AND LABOR
NATURAL RESOURCES

RANKING MEMBER OF
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSULAR AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSIONAL
HISPANIC CONFERENCE

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSIONAL
FRIENDS OF SPAIN CAUCUS

March 30, 2007

Director, Regulatory Management Division
United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security
111 Massachusetts Ave., NW 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20529

RE: DHS Docket No. USCIS 2006-0044

Dear Director of Regulatory Management:

On behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Conference (CHC), I write in opposition to the proposed increase in the fees for starting the naturalization process by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Under the USCIS' proposal, the fee for filing the Form N-400 would increase from \$330 to \$595, and the biometrics fee would increase from \$70 to \$80, resulting in a total increase from \$400 to \$675. The CHC finds the proposed 69% fee hike to be excessive.

The Congressional Hispanic Conference (CHC) was organized to promote the interests and policies important to Americans of Hispanic and Portuguese descent. Members of the CHC represent Hispanics and other legal permanent residents across the United States eligible for U.S. citizenship. We recently joined Congressmen Luis Gutierrez and Jeff Flake in introducing the Security Through Regularized Immigration and a Vibrant Economy Act of 2007 (the STRIVE Act, H.R. 1645). This comprehensive reform bill seeks to end illegal immigration, protect our borders and fix our broken immigration system.

This bill seeks to address and reform the broken visa system to reduce backlogs and inefficiencies which are stated as one of the reasons for which the increase in fees is necessary. We also understand that the Agency believes it needs to raise fees to pay for major infrastructure investments and process enhancements, such as improvements in the timeliness of background checks, modernization of its outdated business systems, facilities improvements, and enhancements in its personnel training and recruitment programs.

Director, Regulatory Management Division

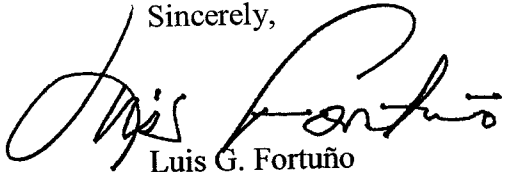
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We respectfully request, in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations, that USCIS postpone all decisions regarding increasing immigration fees until the 110th Congress has an opportunity to consider the STRIVE Act.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Luis Fortuño", written in a cursive style.

Luis G. Fortuño

Chair, Congressional Hispanic Conference
