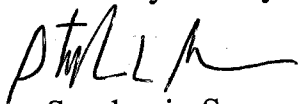


February 24, 2007

To The Director of the Regulatory Management Division:

I am a U.S. citizen concerned about DHS Docket #USCIS-2006-0044. I am a Citizenship and English as a Second Language teacher with a large urban school district in MN. I work with many new Americans who are hoping to become citizens of this country. Many of them have been forced to leave their home countries due to war, fear of government persecution, and other unpleasant circumstances. Therefore, they are unable to return home and long to make a permanent new life for themselves in America. Here in the United States, I see how hard these people work to learn the language, help their children in school, get decent jobs to support their families, and adjust to a new culture and lifestyle. They struggle with bills, low wages and large extended families who are dependent on them for support. In light of this reality, the proposal by USCIS to increase fees by as much as 70% is outrageous and punitive! I believe it is nothing more than a thinly veiled effort to curb legal immigration to this country. It discriminates against those who are already facing overwhelming barriers in their efforts to survive and thrive in this country. I would like to urge you to consider a less steep fee increase and to seek funding from other sources to update your outdated management systems. Please consider these comments, along with those from some of my students, when you make a final decision.

Thank you very much,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steph L. Sommers', written in a cursive style.

Stephanie Sommers
Minneapolis Public Schools