

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20515

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf:

We write to express our opposition to the Department of Homeland Security's final rule titled, "U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Fee Schedule and Changes to Certain Other Immigration Benefit Request Requirements" published on August 3, 2020.

For the first time in U.S. history, the Department of Homeland Security is imposing application fees on asylum-seekers, eliminating waivers for low-income applicants, and drastically raising the cost of applying for naturalization. We are aware that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) is a primarily fee-based agency that is attempting to recover its operational costs, but it is imperative that the Department of Homeland Security generate additional income without harming immigrant applicants who are already struggling especially during a global pandemic.

In line with USCIS's mission statement of administering the nation's lawful immigration system, safeguarding its integrity and promise by efficiently and fairly adjudicating requests for immigration benefits while protecting Americans, it is our request that immigration benefits remain accessible and fair, regardless of an immigrant's socioeconomic background. It is our concern that the new restrictions on fee waivers will have precisely the opposite effect.

To that end, we urge you to eliminate these changes in light of the devastating impact it will have on the lives of immigrant applicants.

We thank you for your attention to this critical matter and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

/s/

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

/s/

Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress

/s/

Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

/s/

Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

/s/

Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress

/s/

Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress

/s/

Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress

/s/

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

/s/

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

/s/

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

/s/

Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress