

Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Small Business
2561 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6515

June 9, 2023

The Honorable Ur M. Jaddou
Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
5900 Capital Gateway Drive
Camp Springs, MD 20746

Dear Director Jaddou,

The House Committee on Small Business (the Committee) writes to inquire about the recent rule proposal to change certain immigration and naturalization benefit request fees charged by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).¹ This rule would increase immigration and naturalization fees for business visas and—as outlined by the Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy—the rule would pass substantial increases in fees onto small entities, along with a \$600 per person fee to subsidize the U.S. asylum program.² It appears that the USCIS may not have properly considered small entities during this rulemaking process.

It is important for agencies to properly consider small businesses interests, which make up 99.9 percent of all businesses in the United States, when passing any new rule. America's small businesses deserve to have their voices heard and considered. We therefore request the following information as soon as possible but no later than June 23, 2023:

1. What are your statutory requirements to examine this rule's impact on small businesses?
2. How many small businesses will be impacted by this rule?
3. What additional compliance costs on small businesses are associated with this new rule?
4. Where can small businesses go to examine your analysis on the impacts this rule will have on their operations?
5. What alternatives have been considered to lessen the impacts on small businesses?

¹ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Fee Schedule and Changes to Certain Other Immigration Benefit Request Requirements, 88 Fed. Reg. 402 (Jan. 4, 2023).

² Letter from Major L. Clark, III, Deputy Chief Counsel & Janis C. Reyes, Assistant Chief Counsel, U.S. Small Bus. Admin. Office of Advocacy, to Ur M. Jaddou, Director & Carol Cribbs, Deputy Chief Fin. Officer, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Serv., U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec. (Mar. 10, 2023).

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To schedule the delivery of your response or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Small Business Majority Staff at (202) 225-5821. The Committee on Small Business has broad authority to investigate “problems of all types of small business” under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "W".

Roger Williams
Chairman
Committee on Small Business

cc: The Honorable Nydia M. Velasquez, Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

August 4, 2023

The Honorable Roger Williams
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Williams:

Thank you for your June 9, 2023 letter to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) regarding the recent rule proposal to change certain immigration and naturalization benefit request fees.

We received comments from 7,973 individuals and organizations, many of which included multiple aspects of the proposed regulation.¹ While USCIS is still in the deliberative process we cannot share any specific information about the fee rule in response to your questions; however, we assure you that we have been carefully reviewing the comments received and any additional changes will be incorporated in the Final Rule.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. As a courtesy, we will send a copy of this response to Ranking Member Nydia Velázquez. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (240) 721-3801.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ur M. Jaddou
Director

¹ The [initial regulatory flexibility analysis](https://www.regulations.gov/document/USCIS-2021-0010-0032) describing impacts of the proposed rule on small entities, can be accessed at <https://www.regulations.gov/document/USCIS-2021-0010-0032>. The need for the proposed changes and analysis of the likely consequences of the proposed rule can be accessed at <https://www.regulations.gov/document/USCIS-2021-0010-0031>