



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20503

June 19, 2020

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On May 18, 2020, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) briefed the House and Senate Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittees on its financial status. As USCIS has detailed, the agency began experiencing a significant decline in Immigration Examination Fee Account non-premium fee receipts in mid-March due to the impact of COVID-19. The decline became more significant in April. At the time USCIS provided technical assistance to the Congress, fee receipts were expected to be more than 60 percent below initial forecast for the remainder of the fiscal year. In addition, USCIS saw a 51 percent year-over-year decline in receipts, based on a comparison of receipt volumes for a two-week period in March/April 2020 against receipt volumes in the equivalent period in 2019. While USCIS continues to analyze available data to refine revenue and spending projections, it remains apparent that USCIS will not have sufficient funding to maintain operations through the end of the fiscal year, nor will USCIS have balances to fund its operations during the first quarter of fiscal year 2021.

The Administration supports efforts to ensure USCIS operations continue as fee revenues rebound, and to ensure that such efforts come at no additional cost to taxpayers. Accordingly, USCIS proposes a cost recovery surcharge approach that would recoup all funding needed to sustain near-term operations. USCIS is continuing to work to identify near-term mitigation strategies to help address the fee revenue shortfall issue. The Office of Management and Budget supports USCIS's "pay it forward" deficit neutral approach to ensure full cost recovery of any additional emergency funding provided by the U.S. Treasury to USCIS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Vought". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Russell T. Vought
Acting Director

Identical Letter Sent to:

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
The Honorable Jim Jordan
The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Kay Granger
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy