



**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**

November 15, 2019

Ms. Jill Marie Bussey  
Advocacy Director  
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.  
8757 Georgia Avenue, Suite 850  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Director Bussey:

Thank you for your November 12, 2019 letter related to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) proposed fee schedule. In your letter, you requested an extension of the comment period for USCIS' proposal to adjust certain immigration and naturalization benefit request fees and the associated regulatory changes.

In accordance with the requirements and principles of the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 and Office of Management and Budget Circular A-25, USCIS conducts biennial reviews of the non-statutory fees that are associated with administering the nation's legal immigration system.

USCIS conducted a comprehensive biennial fee review and determined that current fees do not recover the full costs of providing adjudication and naturalization services. Adjustments to the fee schedule are necessary to recover the full operating costs associated with administering the nation's immigration benefits system, safeguarding its integrity, and efficiently and fairly adjudicating immigration benefit requests, while protecting Americans, securing the homeland, and honoring our country's values.

The USCIS proposed fee schedule provides an opportunity for the public to comment, consistent with the requirements in existing law. The fee schedule went on public inspection on Friday, November 8, 2019, but was not published in the Federal Register until Thursday, November 14. That means the public received an additional six days, on top of the 30 days provided, to review the fee schedule and prepare comments in response.

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The financial situation at USCIS is dire; every day that the fee rule is not in effect, USCIS loses \$4.5 million per business day. Therefore, I have no intention to grant an extension of the comment period beyond the 30 days required by law.

USCIS will review and consider all public comments related to the rule. Thank you again for your letter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ken Cuccinelli II". The signature is stylized with a large "K" and "C", and a small "II" at the end.

Ken Cuccinelli II  
Acting Director