

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2024

Ur M. Jaddou
Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
5900 Capital Gateway Dr.
Camp Springs, Maryland 20588

Dear Director Jaddou,

As members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation, we write to request immediate action by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to address considerable and detrimental delays in processing employment authorization renewal applications for recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Each of our offices have received numerous requests from constituents that have been unable to renew their employment authorizations in a timely manner, leading to many losing their employment as a result of these delays. Current Federal law (8 U.S.C. § 1324a) and Federal regulations provide that DACA recipients may lawfully work within the United States. The over 13,000 Dreamers located throughout Colorado are actively contributing to our economy and nation every day and should be able to renew their employment authorizations in a timely manner.

Current reporting from USCIS indicates that the median processing times for I-765 applications was a month for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 and 1.8 months for FY 2024.¹ However, these processing times do not appear to reflect what we have heard from the constituents we are working with directly. We hope that you will investigate the reasons for these delays and quickly implement reforms to address the longer waiting periods.

As you are well aware, Dreamers have faced a barrage of legal challenges in recent years and many live in constant fear of their protections being taken away. It is unfortunate that they are now forced to face yet another hurdle while they navigate this uncertain process. It is with that in mind, that we believe this issue must be resolved immediately.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to continuing to work with your office to defend the protections for Dreamers and to uphold our American values as a nation of refuge and opportunity.

¹ <https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/historic-pt>

Sincerely,



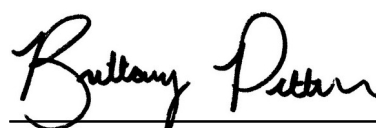
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



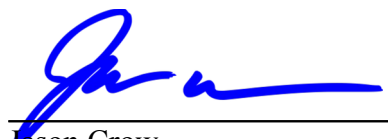
Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Yadira Caraveo, M.D.
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Joe Neguse
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Neguse:

Thank you for your March 16, 2024 letter to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) has been an extraordinarily successful policy that has transformed the lives of hundreds of thousands of young people. The Department of Homeland Security remains as committed as ever to ensuring DACA recipients are protected from the threat of deportation and can continue to remain a vital part of their communities and contribute to this country that is their home. USCIS is proud to play an important role in implementing DACA.

In your letter, you and your fellow members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation raise concerns regarding delays in processing employment authorization renewal applications for DACA recipients. We acknowledge these concerns, and the detrimental impact on DACA recipients whose renewal requests are not adjudicated before their current DACA and related employment authorization expire. We are committed to timely adjudication and are making every effort to process DACA renewal requests within our target timeframe of 120 days.

The latest USCIS Historical Data shows the median processing time for DACA renewals and associated Employment Authorization Documents (EAD) in fiscal year 2023 was one month, and less than two months for fiscal year (FY) 2024 through December 31, 2023,¹ all within our target timeframe for adjudication. We expect the processing times to soon return to historical norms down from the slight increase in the first quarter of FY 2024. These median processing times highlight how quickly USCIS is processing the majority of DACA renewals.

As USCIS has long recommended, DACA renewal requests should be filed no earlier than 150 days and no later than 120 days before the expiration date located on the current Form I-797 DACA approval notice and EAD. DACA renewal requests submitted before the

¹ <https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/historic-pt>.

recommended filing window of 150-120 days prior to a current DACA expiration date will not result in a faster decision.

USCIS acknowledges that in recent months some DACA renewal requestors have experienced processing times longer than the 120-day processing time goal. Specifically, several thousand DACA renewal requests filed from approximately August 2023 to February 2024 were impacted by a technical issue that has since been resolved.

Upon learning of the issue, USCIS took steps to devote additional resources to review and resolve, as appropriate, those DACA renewal requests that were impacted by the technical issue. We anticipate that the vast majority of impacted DACA renewal requests that have not already been resolved will be reviewed within the next 30-45 days. DACA renewal requestors may [submit an inquiry online](#) about the status of renewal requests if pending more than 105 days. USCIS also considers expedite requests on a case-by-case basis. Please visit the [USCIS Expedite Requests](#) website for more information and guidance on expedite requests.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. The cosigners of your letter will receive a separate, identical response. 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