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**By ESEC at 3:33 pm, Sep 08, 2022**

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE  
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Secretary Blinken:

We respectfully write this letter to request the administration take direct action to provide relief to Diversity Immigrant Visa (DV) recipients struggling to receive their green cards. These individuals and their families continue to face undue hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Trump administration's Muslim Ban.

During the previous administration, Presidential Proclamations 10014, 9983, and 9645 prevented numerous DV recipients from proceeding with their application and secure green cards during the fiscal year they were awarded. Despite meeting all other statutory requirements, many of these individuals have been unable to receive visas they are otherwise eligible for and have not been able to reapply after the Biden administration rescinded the Proclamations.

These individuals and their families are still facing the consequences of COVID-19 pandemic closures and the discriminatory Muslim Ban. State Department data shows that 20,900 green card lottery winners still have yet to receive relief. The barriers they continue to face undermine the legitimacy and purpose of the DV program. It is critical that the administration remedies this issue.

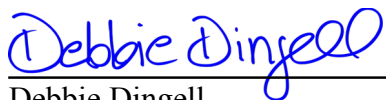
The Priority 2 (P-2) program is a refugee resettlement program under the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) offering qualifying individuals or groups of concern access to immigration services under exigent need or circumstance. We believe the unique conditions of those denied a diversity visa due to these bans merit P-2 eligibility.

As a result, we request the administration grant P-2 designation to those impacted by these Presidential Proclamations and increase refugee processing to alleviate the enduring barriers for these individuals and their families. A P-2 program would provide those denied a green card due to COVID-19 closures or the discriminatory impacts of the Muslim Ban an opportunity to permanently resettle in the United States. There is precedent in establishing this designation for Afghan nationals and their eligible family members who worked with the United States but were

ineligible for Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) status. Offering a P-2 program would provide these individuals lasting protections and fulfill the United States' commitment to these diversity visa recipients.

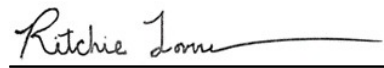
Thank you again for your prompt attention to this important issue, and we look forward to working with you to ensure diversity visa winners receive the protections they have earned.

Sincerely,



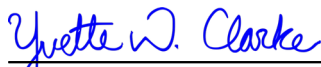
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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



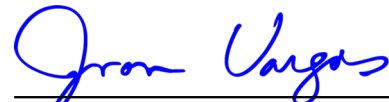
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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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André Carson  
Member of Congress



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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



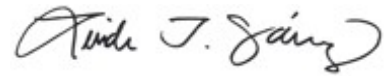
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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



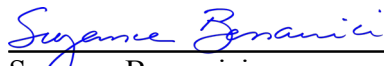
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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Marie Newman  
Member of Congress



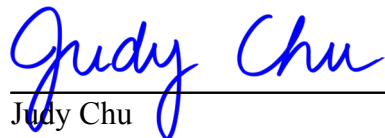
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Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress



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Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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

October 27, 2022

The Honorable Debbie Dingell  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

Thank you for your September 8, 2022, letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requesting relief for certain Diversity Visa selectees. Secretary Mayorkas asked that I respond on his behalf.

As you note, Priority 2 (P-2) groups are designated by the Department of State (DOS) as having access to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) by virtue of their circumstances and apparent need for resettlement. While DHS plays a consultative role in this process, DOS possesses the authority to designate these groups. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) role in the USRAP is to determine a refugee applicant's eligibility and admissibility for resettlement in the United States for those who have been deemed of special humanitarian concern by DOS and referred to USCIS for resettlement consideration.

Therefore, we must defer to DOS on your request to grant P-2 designation to those impacted by Presidential Proclamations 10014, 9983, and 9645.

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 that reads "Ur M. Jaddou" followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Ur M. Jaddou  
Director