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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to receive visas they are otherwise eligible for and have not been able to reapply after the Biden administration rescinded the Proclamations.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

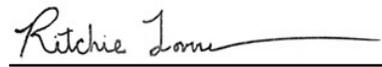
ineligible for Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) status. Offering a P-2 program would provide these individuals lasting protections and fulfill the United States' commitment to these diversity visa recipients.

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,



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



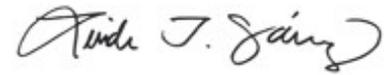
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



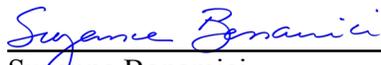
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



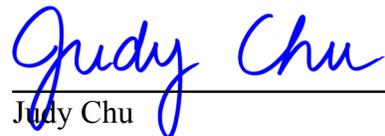
Marie Newman
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



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