



June 28, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20528

RECEIVED

By ESEC at 7:24 am, Jun 29, 2023

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

I am writing to express our appreciation for the efforts by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to issue all Green Cards allotted by Congress for fiscal year 2023. As we noted last year, the ever-growing Green Card backlog significantly impacts the lives of Amazon's employees and their families. We are thankful that you've heeded stakeholders on the continued urgency surrounding the backlog.

Many of our employees have come to the U.S. to achieve the American dream for themselves and their families. Yet, the immigration system often prevents transitioning from dreams to reality, as roadblocks continue to persist. We are particularly concerned that after last year's push to issue all available Green Cards, many of our employees—even those with current priority dates —face longer retrogression this year.

We urge DHS to use all available tools within its power to act on urgently needed reforms. We recommend three actions to ensure a more efficient and responsive system for high-skilled individuals. Our first recommendation is to ensure that no visa numbers are wasted in the future, by working to recapture unused visas from previous years. Recapturing unused visa numbers will safeguard that far more eligible individuals waiting for a Green Card will receive one, substantially reducing wait times. Second, create more transparency around the retrogression of visa numbers, particularly for applicants with current priority dates. If stakeholders are able to better understand trends around filed Green Card applications, employers can implement strategies to reduce the impact of wait times. Lastly, provide a solution for individuals aging-out of eligibility for their parent's Green Card applications, to ensure that families are not faced with difficult decisions, including self-deportation. We appreciate the DHS' policy change earlier this year to prevent fewer child adjustment of status applicants from aging out, but recommend a broader solution to address all potential age-outs.

Amazon stands ready to assist DHS in its work to improve the employment-based immigration system and to fully eliminate the Green Card backlog. We welcome the opportunity for DHS to meet with our employees to hear how the Green Card backlog directly impacts their lives and to discuss these proposals further.

Sincerely,

Brian Huseman
Vice President, Public Policy
Amazon



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

August 14, 2023

Brian Huseman
Vice President, Public Policy
Amazon
bhuseman@amazon.com

Dear Mr. Huseman:

Thank you for your June 28, 2023 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). I am responding on behalf of the Department. America's ability to attract global talent — especially in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) — has spurred path-breaking innovation, leading to the creation of jobs, new industries, and new opportunities. We appreciate the recommendations that you proposed in your letter and address them below.

In response to your first recommendation, DHS and the Department of State (DOS) have and will continue to consult with Congress to recapture unused visas.

Regarding your second recommendation, on June 26, 2023, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) updated our [Fiscal Year 2023 Employment-based Adjustment of Status FAQs](#), specifically including additional explanations about retrogression, and we will continue to strive to provide transparency in the future.

In reference to your last recommendation concerning individuals who may age out and become ineligible to apply for lawful permanent residence with their parents, USCIS continues to explore all options available under the law to provide relief to individuals aging out. For example, on February 14, 2023, USCIS [issued guidance](#) in our Policy Manual to update when an immigrant visa number “becomes available” for the purpose of calculating a noncitizen’s age in certain situations under the [Child Status Protection Act \(CSPA\)](#). Under this new guidance, USCIS now considers a visa available to calculate CSPA age at the same time USCIS considers a visa immediately available for accepting and processing the adjustment of status application, which provides these noncitizens with more certainty about their eligibility to adjust status. If these noncitizens are eligible to adjust status because of the change in policy and they have filed for adjustment of status, they will also be eligible to apply for employment and travel authorization based on their pending adjustment of status application, and they generally will not lose previously issued employment or travel authorization. In addition, the DHS [Spring 2023 Unified Regulatory Agenda](#) includes an anticipated notice of proposed rulemaking titled [Improving the Regulations Governing the Adjustment of Status to Lawful Permanent Residence](#)

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[and Related Immigration Benefits](#), which currently includes a proposal to change the age calculation under the CSPA.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Should you require any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Ur M. Jaddou
Director