

MARK POCAN
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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SENIOR WHIP



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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

August 3, 2020

RECEIVED

By ESEC External at 1:58 pm, Aug 03, 2020

The Honorable Michael Pompeo
Secretary
Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Mr. Chad Wolf
Acting Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20528

Kenneth T. Cuccinelli
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the
Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security
20 Massachusetts Avenue NW M.S. 2090
Washington, DC 20529

Dear Secretary Pompeo, Acting Secretary Wolf and Mr. Cuccinelli:

I write to ask for relief for Americans who are separated from their fiancés due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I urge your agencies to begin processing K-1 or “fiancé” visas as soon as possible.

While spouses of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents (LPRs) are exempted from bans on entering the U.S. during the COVID-19 public health emergency, your agencies are not processing K-1 visas that allow non-citizens to travel to the U.S. in order to marry a U.S. citizen.

One of my constituents is separated from their fiancé because the fiancé’s K-1 visa application remains unprocessed. The State Department Bureau of Consular Affairs posted on Twitter on July 11, 2020 that depending on local conditions, some embassies and consulates may begin routine visa services. I urge you to prioritize K-1 visa processing and resume full visa services in a manner that is safe for both applicants and embassy and consulate workers. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Pocan'.

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of the Director (MS 2000)
Washington, DC 20529-2000



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

August 11, 2020

The Honorable Mark Pocan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Pocan:

Thank you for your August 3, 2020 letter. Acting Secretary Wolf asked that I respond on his behalf.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) continues to process Form I-129F, Petition for Alien Fiance(e), as usual and is ahead of normal processing times for this form type. If an individual constituent has a petition pending with USCIS outside of normal processing times, he or she may reach out to our Contact Center to inquire about the case status or your office may contact our USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs on his or her behalf. With regard to the visa process for individuals outside of the United States, we defer to our colleagues at the Department of State.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 272-1940.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "J. Edlow", followed by a long horizontal line.

Joseph Edlow
Deputy Director for Policy