



August 28, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
300 7th St SW  
Washington, DC 20024

The Honorable Ur Jaddou  
Director  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
5900 Capital Gateway Dr.  
Camp Springs, MD 20588-0009

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Director Jaddou,

We write today with grave concerns regarding news that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is eliminating essential contractor work at the USCIS California Service Center (24000 Avila Rd, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677). As of last month, hundreds of skilled, experienced workers have lost their jobs, and the remaining workers are expected to also be laid off by the end of the year.

We were dismayed to hear that your agency eliminated hundreds of jobs and displaced skilled workers despite your current need to address said backlogs. Recent data indicate that the agency's net backlog amounted to an estimated 4,279,000 pending cases as of September 30, 2023. This includes more than 763,400 asylum and withholding of removal cases, 214,000 U-visa petitions, 391,000 family petitions and 342,600 adjustment applications, and 387,700 employment authorizations.

We are also concerned that workers at the California Service Center, who are represented by United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE) Local 1008, will be replaced by non-union workers and with most work going to small, low-paying locations known as "Lockboxes." Our constituents have expressed frustration that UE Local 1008's requests for information have been given insufficient answers, with USCIS choosing to withhold from workers any details on the next phase of its massive job cuts plan until mere days before employees receive their layoff notices.

Despite recently securing a collective bargaining agreement to improve the working conditions of this vital workforce, these union workers are having their lives upended by the mismanagement of USCIS leadership.

A strong, skilled workforce is an effective tool in addressing an enormous backlog in applications resulting from a politicized immigration system. We urge you to reverse the decision to lay off these 400 vital, experienced USCIS workers.

Thank you for your expeditious consideration of this matter. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



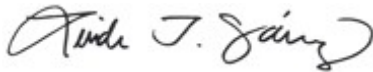
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J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



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Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



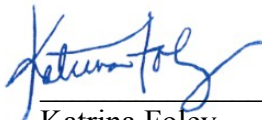
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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



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Katrina Foley  
Orange County Supervisor – District 5