

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 1, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
United States Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mullin:

The undersigned Republican Members of Congress write to urge the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) to expedite timely reviews of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) visa renewals and associated employment authorizations – specifically Forms I-821D and I-765.

As you know, DACA recipients must renew their visa and corresponding employment authorization every two years. USCIS usually recommends applicants apply for renewal 120 days before their visa expiration date. Today, employees across our districts with DACA status who applied on time are facing much longer wait times, up to six months. Many of these applicants are at risk of losing their jobs in the coming weeks, or have already lost their jobs, with no updates from USCIS.

We appreciate the additional vetting and national security measures the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has implemented in various legal visa programs to ensure that participants meet high standards to remain in the United States. This is a much-welcomed change from the failures of the Biden Administration that led to the increased crime and security risks in American communities. We also understand that repetitive, prolonged shutdowns of DHS by Democrats in Congress have acutely constrained time, staff, and other resources across all DHS agencies.

At a critical time in our country for immigration enforcement to strengthen public safety, the transparency and collaboration you have carried from your time in Congress to your leadership of DHS has reinforced trust. We are grateful for the partnership between USCIS and our offices' caseworkers to process applications for our constituents most at-risk to employment termination. However, the current delays are leaving otherwise eligible workers at risk of lapses in authorization, lost wages, and job separation. When a legal worker loses their employment authorization, they lose their jobs with zero certainty that same job will be there when their paperwork is ultimately approved. Their families face sudden financial strain – many of whom are legal residents or American citizens who share similar values of hard work and integrity. Additionally, employers in critical industries who are forced to terminate those employees confront production slowdowns, retraining costs, and lost institutional knowledge. Ultimately, consumers pay more when capacity declines, and Americans can't afford that right now.

We appreciate your comments during the June 3, 2026, House Committee on Homeland Security hearing, expressing willingness to work with Members of Congress on these delays in legal visa processing. Likewise, we stand ready to partner with USCIS and DHS to legislatively address any barriers to the timely processing of visa renewals. To best inform Congressional oversight and support, please provide answers to the following questions within 10 business days so we can work together to expedite the reviews of DACA renewals and help American industries thrive:

- 1) The current average and median processing times for I-821D and I-765 DACA renewals, disaggregated by service center and by month for the past year;
- 2) A detailed explanation of the principal drivers of delay, along with any mitigation steps underway;
- 3) Any support or additional resources from Congress necessary to restore predictable, timely adjudication of lawful renewals;

4) Your plan to reduce backlogs and prevent lapses for timely filers, including improved applicant communication, case-status transparency, and whether temporary measures (such as automatic extensions of employment authorization for on-time renewals) could be safely implemented.

We welcome a briefing with your team to discuss an efficient path forward. Reliable processing timelines and strong vetting processes protect American jobs and affordability by preventing disruptions in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, healthcare, construction, and hospitality, and by stabilizing community institutions that serve working families.

Once again, we stand ready to work with you to ensure USCIS has the capacity, tools, and accountability to smooth bottlenecks in visa processing and keep legally present workers employed in critical American industries.

Sincerely,



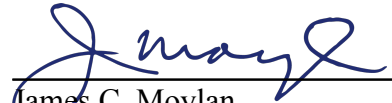
Gabe Evans
Member of Congress



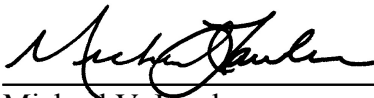
Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



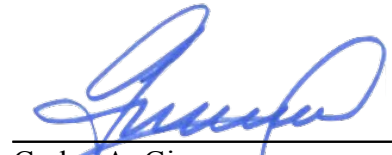
Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



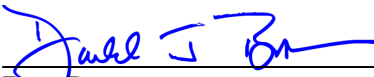
James C. Moylan
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Gimenez
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Don Bacon
Member of Congress