



**Support Alliance of  
US Immigrants**

May 28, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas  
Secretary, Department of Homeland Security  
3801 Nebraska Avenue  
Washington, DC 20016

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to urge that you act immediately to have USCIS give high priority to adjudicating adjustments to legal permanent residency for employment-based immigrants. This is action that cannot wait if available visa numbers are to be used before the end of the fiscal year.

As you know, over the past four years the prior Administration made a concerted effort to reduce legal immigration through a range of policies and practices. The first quarter of FY21 indicates a very low number of adjustments in the employment-based categories, despite 122,000 additional family-based visas falling across from FY20.

**This is a crisis with a deadline: after October 1, many tens of thousands of green cards may be lost, effectively cutting legal immigration substantially through sheer neglect.**

USCIS must dedicate the resources to deliver green cards to backlogged employment-based immigrants before the end of this fiscal year.

I am a founding member and the director of outreach for Support Alliance of US Immigrants (aka All of Us), a grassroots organization with roughly 5,000 members who hope and expect that because of our skills, we will get green cards to live as legal permanent residents in the United States – and eventually, to become citizens of the greatest country in the world.

Our members are from more than 60 countries: Armenia, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Belarus, Canada, China, Columbia, Croatia, Cyprus, Philippines, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Iran, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Taiwan, and others.

We study at MIT, Stanford, Rensselaer, University of Texas at Austin, Penn State, Cornell, University of Notre Dame, Carnegie Mellon, Clemson, Indiana University, Pitt, Cleveland Clinic, Johns Hopkins, Brandeis, Virginia Tech, Duke, LSU, the University of Illinois, West Virginia University and many others.

Our professional fields include medical and scientific research (chemistry, computer science, physics, neurology, climate change, marketing science, and artificial intelligence, among others).



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We face an obstacle that only the Congress can remove: there are *not enough* green cards. That is why we oppose zero sum approaches to the backlog problem – which can only be solved by *more*.

But it is entirely within the power of your Department to give priority to adjustments of status for employment-based immigrants. This will include many backlogged despite working for years in the US while eligible for green cards that are delayed by Congress' failure to provide enough.

Under the provisions of the Immigration Act of 1990, 122,000 unused family-based immigration visas from FY20 were added to the 140,000 statutory allocation—a total of 262,000 available for adjustments of status in the employment-based categories until the end of this fiscal year. If they are not used, they will fall back to family categories where then cannot be used due to statutory limits. But given priority by USCIS, they can make a substantial reduction of the million person backlog that has languished for so long.

But the numbers from the first quarter of FY21 are alarming. If that pace continues into the Biden Administration, more than 150,000 employment-based immigrants and their families will continue to be denied the green cards for which they have been eligible for years.

I cannot imagine President Biden wants to oversee an accidental reduction in legal immigration through a lack of resources to process these well-earned green cards. This Administration must not fail to give priority to the adjustments of status necessary to deliver legal permanent residency to people who have already waited too long.

Clearly, Congress needs to authorize more green cards to clear the employment-based backlog. That is why we support the US Citizenship Act of 2021, especially the employment-based provisions as we testified to the House Judiciary Committee in May. **But this is a discrete issue that does not require legislation – only the focused attention of your Department.**

Thank you for your attention to it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maz Rostamian'.

Maz Rostamian, PhD

Director of outreach for All of Us

Copies:

Tracy Renaud, Acting Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Senator Dick Durbin, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship