



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2024

Ur M. Jaddou  
Director  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
20 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Director Jaddou,

We write to express concerns regarding the current delays in processing renewal applications for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Many of our offices have heard from constituents that the increased Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) backlog has resulted in many DACA recipients waiting several months to hear back. These delays threaten the ability of many DACA recipients to work, drive, or go to school. DACA recipients play a strong role in our economy and cultural fabric, and we urge USCIS to quickly resolve this backlog in processing DACA renewal applications.

There are about 554,000 DACA recipients nationwide, with 154,000 in California and nearly 100,000 in Texas alone, who are potentially affected by this backlog. USCIS recommends DACA recipients submit a renewal application 120-150 days before their expiration date, but some individuals have been waiting for months, with cases as far back as August 2023, to receive updates on their renewal requests. These delays threaten the livelihood of many DACA recipients, with many potentially losing their work authorization or their ability to hold a valid driver's license.

We commend the agency's support of the DACA program, and we urge you to prioritize and quickly resolve this matter so that DACA recipients can continue to contribute to our economy and communities. We ask that you dedicate the appropriate resources to this process, to ensure that renewals can be processed in a timely manner. Currently, DACA recipients do not receive an automatic extension while their renewal applications are pending. They depend on USCIS provided processing times and status updates to avoid losing their jobs. Therefore, while the processing backlog is fixed, we also request for USCIS to work on providing DACA recipients

with the automatic extension that a majority of individuals receive upon submitting a valid application for the renewal of their employment authorization.

We respectfully ask that USCIS utilize all possible avenues to uphold our commitment to supporting DACA recipients across the country. We stand ready to work with your agency to ensure a timely processing timeline for DACA renewals.

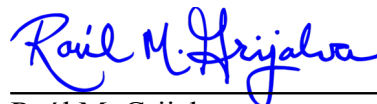
Thank you for considering this matter.

Sincerely,



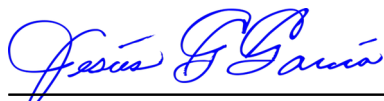
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J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



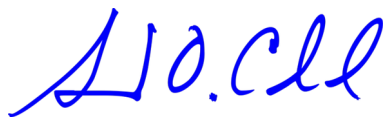
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



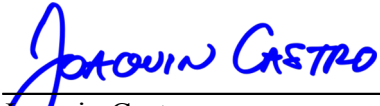
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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



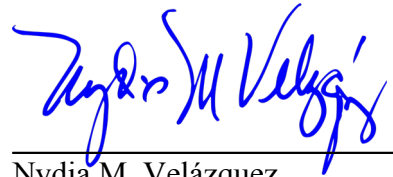
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Yadira Caraveo, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



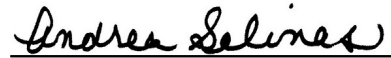
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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



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Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



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Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



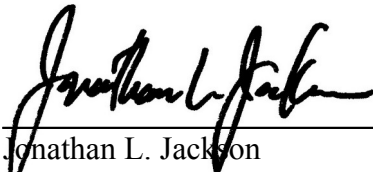
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Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



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Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



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Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



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Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



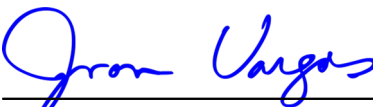
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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



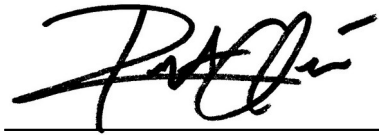
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Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



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Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



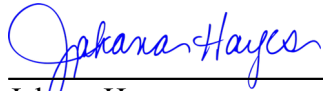
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Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



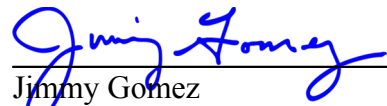
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



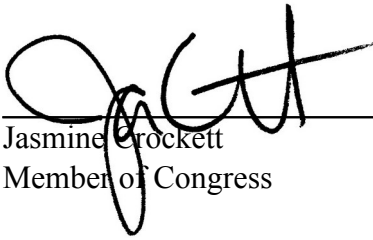
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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



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Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



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Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress



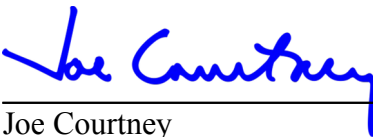
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Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



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Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



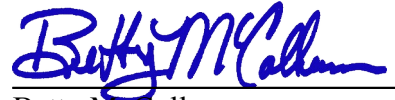
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



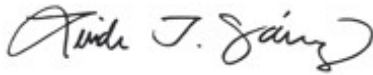
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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



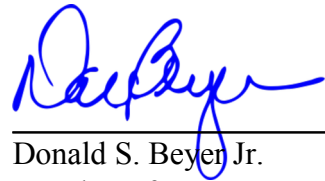
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Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



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Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



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André Carson  
Member of Congress



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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



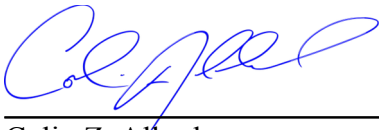
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David J. Trone  
Member of Congress



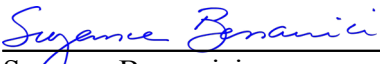
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Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



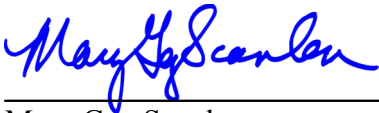
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Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress



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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



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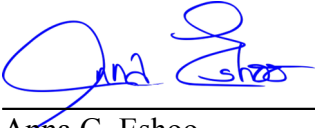
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



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Josh Harder  
Member of Congress





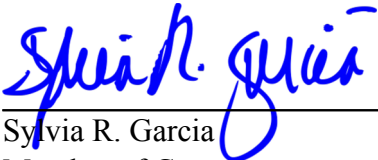
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Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



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Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



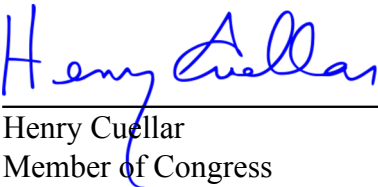
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Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



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Cori Bush  
Member of Congress



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Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress



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Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



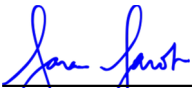
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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



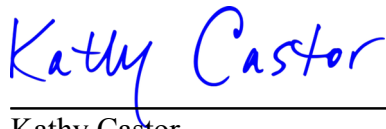
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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



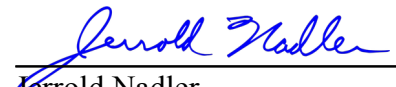
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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



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Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Robert J. Menendez  
Member of Congress



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Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



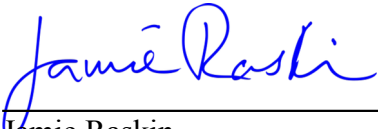
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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



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Summer Lee  
Member of Congress



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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



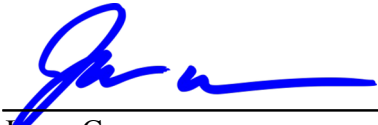
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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



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Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



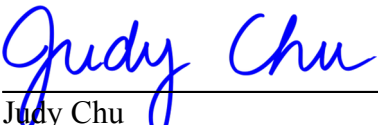
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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



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Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress




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Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



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Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



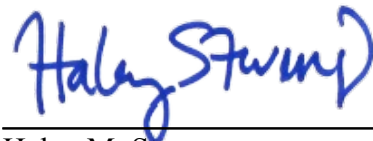
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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



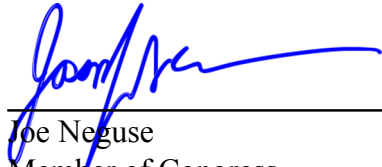
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Jeff Jackson  
Member of Congress



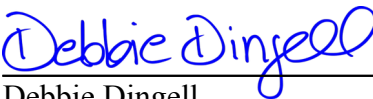
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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



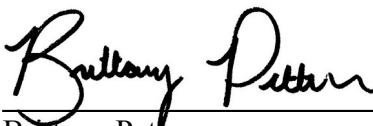
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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



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Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



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Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



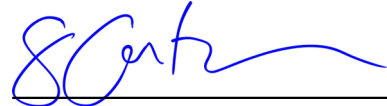
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Al Green  
Member of Congress



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Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



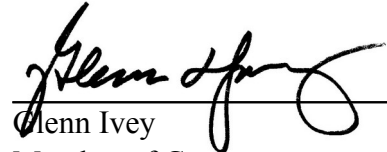
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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



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Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress



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Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



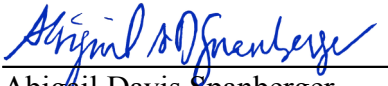
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Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress



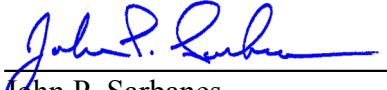
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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



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Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress



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John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

May 24, 2024

The Honorable J. Luis Correa  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Correa:

Thank you for your April 1, 2024 letter on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). USCIS remains as committed to ensuring DACA recipients are protected from the threat of deportation and can continue to remain a vital part of their communities and contribute to this country that is their home.

We acknowledge your concerns about DACA renewal request processing times, and the effects DACA recipients experience when their DACA deferred action and related Employment Authorization Documents (EAD) expire. USCIS Historical Data shows the median processing time for DACA renewals and associated employment authorization documents in fiscal year (FY) 2023 was one month, and less than two months in FY 2024, through March 31, 2024. We are currently processing most DACA renewals within the 120-day DACA renewal processing time goal. We also note the large majority of DACA renewal requests are not timely filed. Currently, approximately only 15 percent of DACA renewal requests are timely filed in the USCIS recommended timeframe of 120-150 days prior to expiration.

We acknowledge in recent months some DACA renewal requestors have experienced processing times longer than our 120-day processing time goal, which was largely due to technical issues experienced from upgrading the platform in which we operate DACA. We have since resolved the technical issues, and have devoted additional resources to finalize adjudication of DACA renewal requests impacted by the technical issues. We are committed to reviewing and processing all DACA renewal requests within 120 days and are pleased to share that we have returned to steady state.

Thank you for your suggestion that USCIS automatically extend the validity of DACA recipients' EAD upon filing a renewal DACA request. DACA-based renewal EAD requests do not meet the requirement under 8 CFR 274a.13(d)(iii), which limits the automatic extension of EADs to those EAD categories that do not require the adjudication of an underlying application or petition—in this case, deferred action—before the adjudication of the renewal application. Nonetheless, USCIS is actively considering all available options to ensure DACA renewal requests are processed in an efficient manner and to reduce the likelihood DACA recipients who timely file renewals experience a lapse in their DACA or related EAD.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. The cosigners of your letter will receive a separate, identical response. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (240) 721-3801.

Respectfully,

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

Ur M. Jaddou  
Director